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Check
out this
fresh attic
redo p. 64

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ideas

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AUGUST 2013
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08>

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THIS OLD HOUSE REVEALS
THE TOP 100 HOME IMPROVEMENT IDEAS
AUGUST 2013

The Great TOH Giveaway

12 \$530,324 in prizes!
Check out the complete list of
giveaway products in this issue

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Cover Photograph by MICHAEL J. LEE

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THE OLD HOUSE BEST PARTS AND REPAIRS AUGUST 2013



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"My dad says it gives him a piece of his mind."

—Shelby, 9 yrs old



Shelby's dad is right (sort of). Life insurance isn't the best way to protect your family. It's a great way to keep your family safe. See how to protect your family from life insurance. Get a better rate. Get State Farm.

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Letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

We've got freebies for the whole house!

So the window guy was over to discuss a pair of ground-level, arch-top windows at the front of my house. They long ago needed to be replaced, but their small size and curious geometry made them a challenge until he came to the rescue. We talked about timing and options—and cost, which, of course, is always too much.

My wife asked, "Is it less if they don't open?" knowing that the answer was likely no and that they needed to open anyway.

The conversation turned to what others in the neighborhood were up to, and he mentioned a house not too far away that was in the middle of a gut remodel.

"Just the windows," he said, "are a hundred grand." When I picked up my pen, I asked, "Where do people get the money? Whose do they come from?" And he replied with something to the effect of "Not my world."

My guess is, that's not your world either.

Which is exactly why we started The Great TOH Giveaway sweepstakes. The first year we ran the sweeps, the prizes totaled \$31,149. This year you can enter The Great TOH Giveaway for a chance to win—wait for it—more than a half-million dollars in goods! The biggest "prizes" come from a small group of generous companies: MasterBrand Cabinets is donating \$40,000 in cabinets and \$10,000 in installation services. DuVinc Roofscapes is offering \$10,000 in full-on polyester roofing to be split between two lucky winners. Kohler is giving a slate of prizes that totals over \$10,000 and includes not only bathroom suites but also, yep, the kitchen sink. We even have windows, \$49,598 worth of them, from Simenon, which was recently found by J.D. Power & Associates to have the highest customer-satisfaction rating among window manufacturers.

You'll have to find your own pro to install them. Or you can try to do it yourself. Either way, you won't have to spend \$600,000, which, I think we can all agree, makes it, if not exactly your world, a much better world all around.

Scott Chappelle
SCOTT CHAPPELLE, EDITOR
scott@thisoldhouse.com



The editor didn't win this sweep, but you will—or rather one just like it! See page 12 for details.



How to enter
The Great
TOH
Giveaway

Enter online at www.thisoldhouse.com/giveaway or by mail at: The Great TOH Giveaway, P.O. Box 1000, Newtown, CT 06457. Sweepstakes ends 12/31/07. Prizes awarded by random drawing. See page 12 for details.

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Reader mail



SUMMER INSPIRATION. *It's the busy outdoor season for This Old House readers, but some of you took time out to admire a featured farmhouse, load the TOH tablet, and share how our pages motivated a rescue for doomed chairs and a damaged shed.*

Farmhouse fun

You finally pulled my deepest dream home in "The Lifted up, Added-on-to, Rejuvenated, Streamlined, and Upgraded Modern Farmhouse" (May 2013, page 72). I love that the owners insisted on stripping the house back to an authentic instead of just slapping on a beehive big addition. I'm lucky enough to have found my own dream in the rough, an 1839 farmhouse. Your article gave me hope that there's actually light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you!

—KIM BOUTE HUTTON NY

Touting the tablet

I subscribe to several magazines in digital format, and TOH's is, by far, the best I've used. There is not only expanded content but also a user interface that exceeds anything else I've seen or used. Best is that, for me at least, it "arrives" several days in advance of the hard copy.

The paper version becomes an archive copy, subject to the clipping of articles and pictures that I want to keep in an easy-to-reference place. Well done!

—STORY FORN PUJAH ALA

Saving a shed

Tom Silva answered an Ask This Old House question (June 2013, page 101) regarding repairs to the bottom of a damaged shed. We have the same problem and, until we read his answer, felt our only recourse was to totally replace the shed, an option we really did not want to have to tackle, as the entire shed area has been decorated with landscaping. Now I think we can do that!

—SAND RUSSO GRAND ISLAND NY

HOW TO REACH US

E-mail: TOH_letters@thisoldhouse.com
Please include your full name, address and phone number. Published letters are edited for clarity and length.



Adirondack blues

ORIENTED TOWARD KITCHEN NY

My husband wanted me to throw these chairs on I said, no way! There are no! Thank to the cover of my June 2013 issue (above) this is the result. My husband said they look great. I have your magazine!



AIRING NOW!



Turn in to watch as This Old House TV transforms an unassuming cottage into an inviting in-law quarters that's designed for aging in place.

For local listings, visit thisoldhouse.com/tvschedule

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Checklist

AUGUST 2013

Easy ways to
improve your home
right now

6 FAST FIXES

❑ **Put lights on a timer.**
An auto on/off system helps discourage thieves while you're away in vacation.



❑ **Pick summer squash early.**
Elongated squash like zucchini are most flavorful when they are 1 to 2 inches in diameter—any bigger, and they get bland and tough.

❑ **Prevent indoor mold.** Place an open container of white vinegar in the bathroom to absorb excess moisture and combat mold growth.

❑ **Tighten up play equipment.** After a few months of outdoor play, toddlers might have wiggled loose: to check and resecure as needed for the rest of the season.

❑ **Vacuum fridge coils.** Pull the fridge out from the wall, and use your vacuum to remove loose dust to clear the coils and fins for more efficient cooling.

❑ **Divide irises.** These garden favorites go dormant in the heat of August, making it a perfect time to divide them and thin overcrowded beds.

❑ **Stay safe when firing up the fire pit.** Summer isn't the same without some s'mores. But if you're lighting marshmallows over a backyard fire pit, make sure to keep it at least 20 feet from anything flammable, including overhanging tree branches. Metal screens can help shield you from sparks; using seasoned hardwood will also help prevent flare-ups. Keep water or sand nearby to smother flames if needed, and never leave a fire unattended.



❑ **Give skeeters the slip.** This nasty bug prods water to pour out to help keep troublesome mosquitoes at bay. If you have a pool, in a doghouse or a plant saucer, for instance, you serve as a breeding ground. To make sure to change them out with fresh water frequently. If you have standing water you can't eliminate, a fish pond—use a mosquito larvicide. Mosquito Dunk tabs (about \$10 for an ounce) from www.fishbase.com for example are safe for other wildlife and can last up to 30 days.



❑ **Safeguard hydrangeas.** Hot summer sun often causes their big flowers to wilt due to moisture loss, but watering the plants can do more harm than good, causing further wilting or even root rot. If the soil at their base is moist, don't add extra H₂O—plants will perk up during cooler evening hours.



❑ **Make tastier summer drinks.** Summer cooling gets a refresh with a touch of your old water filter. Some 80 percent of new fridges come with a built-in filter, but changing the cartridge is often overlooked. A new one helps whisk away contaminants (like lead) and foul-tasting chemicals (like chlorine) that can pass through a full filter. For zettler lemons as a temp fix, replace your filter now—and again every three to six months.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF AZEK; COURTESY OF AZEK; COURTESY OF AZEK; COURTESY OF AZEK; COURTESY OF AZEK; COURTESY OF AZEK



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INSIDE 10 USES CEILING-FAN UPGRADES BUDGET REDO YOUR YARD MORE



Picture-perfect bath cabinet

Over the sink may not be the expected place for framed art, but that's where Lynne Boughton of Brooklyn, Michigan, found the inspired alternative to a medicine cabinet: chest-deep. Hinged to a set of recessed shelves and framed with molding, a snapshot of early motherhood (Errol Flynn as a young father) is the only hint that behind it lies a standard-issue toiletry storage, as well as a small mirror attached to the interior for when Lynne needs to date in order to close up.

↑
Assemble the frame tightly to prevent wind or from damaging the photo.

PHOTO: JENNIFER HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES

MAY 2011 **THE**

37

10 uses *Golf tees*

Gather up those strays rattling around in your junk drawer—they come in handy around the house.

1 Patch old screw holes.

Cook a wooden dowel with carpenter's glue and use a hammer to tap it into the hole. Use a file to smooth the head of the tee so that the remaining section is flush with the wall. Fresh with expanding compound to smooth the surface.

2 Sow herb seeds.

Use the top of a tee to make a rich deep furrow lines in pots of seed-starting soil. Dampen the tee's point and use it to pick up tiny seeds, which will cling to it. Place them one by one in the furrows.



3 Stake a picnic blanket. Cut small slits in the corners of a blanket. Push golf-tee length golf tees (4 inches) through the slits and into the ground to keep the fabric anchored during a stiff breeze.

4 Use as spacers. As you're laying large tiles, pavers, or stepping stones, place tees between the pieces to space them evenly before grouting or filling the joints. Place the tees on their heads (or point side down, depending on which spacing best suits your project).

5 Replace a lost cap. Use a golf tee to plug the end of a tube of adhesive or caulk. A pin length tee will cut through caulk and float to the slender neck of most tubes.

6 Keep your drill ready. In the making pilot holes for wall anchors, place a golf tee pointed end first against the drywall and tap it gently with a hammer. This will create a small divot that your drill bit can rest in.

7 Choose-code bulbs. When it's time to plant

spring-blooming bulbs like tulips and daffodils, map plants to specific spots using tees in different hues for inspiration. Use the color-coded markers in your garden.

8 Give your kids a DIY practice. Let the little ones pound short golf tees into a block of rigid foam with a toy hammer. It's a safe way for them to have their "clubs" hit.

—DELLA BARRY



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A bright and airy kitchen for \$343

Open shelves and cheery cottage-style details give a dark cook space a fresh new feel



BEFORE

BEFORE Stained wood cabinets darkened the kitchen. **AFTER** A white beadboard backsplash, bracket-supported open shelves, and base cabinets painted warm gray keep the kitchen feeling spacious without sacrificing storage. Cherry-mahogany stools on the island, storage doors on the pantry, and bright red pendant lights overhead step up the charm.

THE PROJECT TALLY

Coated up the plain kitchen island with a sheet of beadboard and three corbels \$20

Gave the pantry island a village look with storage glass-panel doors, carved cherry-mahogany stools \$70

Hung brass-center semi-style lights, painted with a coat of white paint \$26

Ripped out dark and dated upper cabinets \$70

Installed three extendable beadboard backsplash and two rows of white-painted open shelves to make up for lost storage \$150

Warmed up the base cabinets with soft gray paint and added cherry-mahogany pulls and knobs needed for multiple \$50

TOTAL

\$343

FOGETTING UP A WINDOWLESS KITCHEN can be tricky, especially when moving walls is beyond the budget. Nikki Grady knew she'd have to get creative in transforming her new home's dark kitchen—the only disappointing room in an otherwise perfect-90 house for her husband Caleb and their four young kids. To start, Nikki installed a white beadboard backsplash and glass-panel pantry doors. When that proved not enough, she moved to the kitchen island, which she did with a sheet of white beadboard before mounting beech corbels snagged from a local woodworking shop's free bin. Next, she lightened the area by installing quirky repurposed style pendant lights that she had bought, finished and painted herself. But realizing that the dark upper cabinets still weighed down the space, Nikki finally ripped them out and replaced them, extending the beadboard backsplash and adding two rows of open shelving supported by carry-pure brackets she cut herself. Gray paint and vintage-style knobs and pulls softened the look of the base cabinets and helped unify the space, creating just the breezy feeling she had hoped for. Says Nikki, "I spend a lot of time here with my kids, making PJ&Js and doing dishes, and it's finally a place I really like!" —L.S.

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Creature-comfort checkup

The warm weather keeping flocks no sign of slowing down. If you started your own backyard flock with chicks this past spring, you'll be collecting their bounty soon, as hens begin laying around 24 weeks. To safeguard your flock, make sure their permanent shelter is up to snuff. Here's what experts recommend to keep feathered friends in the fiddle.

Give them enough space. For each flock of three, you need 4 by 4 feet of fenced-in area, where food and water should be kept, and 4 by 4 feet of predator-proof coop space, complete with roosting perches for each bird and a nesting box or two.

Pick the right location. A partially shaded site away from neighboring houses is best. Check local regulations for specific set-back requirements.

Design for safety. Coops should be waterproof but not airtight. If you build one that's waterproof, make sure protect your flock from toxins by making sure the materials are free of harmful preservatives and lead paint.

Ventilate it properly. Most air-conditioned chickens tend to be sure your coop has enough places for air to enter and exit. At a minimum, for small coops, there should be vents low down to create a cross breeze without causing a draft to the sleeping quarters below.

Make cleanup easy. Consider placing a removable tray beneath the roosting perches, where chickens leave most of their droppings.

Give them some shade. Hens stop laying if they don't get enough light. To help them catch enough rays, add a few weedless plants near.

For more chicken-keeping tips and coop-design ideas go to thefoxhouse.com/aug2013

—ANN E. STRATTON



Beat the heat outdoors

Don't let stifling temperatures keep you from your yard. It's possible to cool down your yard with a few simple tricks. Here's one of the top 10 outdoor cooling tips from *Real Simple*.

HIGH-VELOCITY BLOWER-FAN (FROM \$300)

A rugged housing allows its blades to rotate at very fast speeds for a powerful breeze and a built-in ground fault circuit interrupter means it's safe to use in the

EVAPORATIVE COOLER (FROM \$150)

This device draws in air and cools it by blowing it through a wet filter or pad. The air picks up a fresh, dry air supply to work efficiently. At least 2 feet of clearance all around it to prevent clogging from a recirculating

HIGH-PRESSURE MISTING SYSTEM (FROM \$799)

Perforated tubes, mounted at the pin points of approved sealing material, are not tied to a water supply. Instead, a fog line mist that absorbs heat from the air. You must seal the perforations away from the structure for the system to work properly.

—G.B.



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Image: iStockphoto.com/Chris Jones



Will it put my table in a good light?

A multipoint pendant gives you three (or more!) light fixtures in one. Here's how to develop an eye for the right choice

Part chandelier, part track light, and part DIY design, today's multipoint pendants offer the convenience of a complete suspended fixture with the impact of up to 12 bulbs. You choose the canopy, fittings, and shades and decide how to arrange the pendants at the same height, staggered like wind chimes, or offset to give each one its own profile. Stringing these multipoint concoctions together can be a challenge, making installation perhaps best left to a pro. But before you get to that stage, follow these tips to make sure the fixture fits your space.

—DENISE BALDWIN

Lighting 101

1 CHECK THE DIMENS.

Following the manufacturer's instructions, make sure the fixture fits the space.

When installing a multipoint pendant, make sure the canopy fits over the electrical box and the fixture is secure. Also, make sure the fixture is secure and the light fixture is secure.

2 ASK ABOUT ADDITION.

Consider how the fixture will be used. Different styles and colors, as well as different heights, can make a difference in the look. The upside: A three-point fixture may have more options.

3 PLAN AHEAD.

To coordinate with the room's design, choose a fixture that fits the room's style. But also, consider the fixture's height. If you have a high ceiling, a three-point fixture may be the best choice. If you have a low ceiling, a two-point fixture may be the best choice.

4 ASSESS THE MATERIAL.

Choose a material that fits the room's style. For example, a three-point fixture may be the best choice. If you have a high ceiling, a three-point fixture may be the best choice. If you have a low ceiling, a two-point fixture may be the best choice.

Get the details with the manufacturer's instructions. Visit www.houzz.com.

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 - FAMILY HISTORY OF EARLY HEART DISEASE
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WHAT IS KINETIC ENERGY?

HOW DOES BRISTOL WORK?

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- [illegible]

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- have children and/or involve peers in activities
 - are prepared to think you may be pregnant, or are planning to discuss pregnancy
 - are breast-feeding
 - if you have 12 or 24 classes of lecture study
 - have been pregnant
 - have existing problems
 - have chronic pain or illness
 - are a victim of rape or incest
- Tell your health-care professional about all medications you're taking right now. Include vitamins/supplements and prescription medications, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines may interact with COVID-19, making them effective. It's particularly important to tell your health-care professional if you're taking or plan to take medicines for:
- your immune system
 - cholesterol/supplements
 - blood thinning
 - diabetes
 - psychiatric medications

Know all of the specialties you have entered. They look like, "It's always a good idea to double-check you have the right program before you begin the specialty entrance process." www.aap.org is a really good website with you to show your healthcare profession.

1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 26

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF CUSCUMB?

Intimate problems. Coldest health news: just 8% say they're happy in a relationship. In fact, loneliness, it appears, is closely linked with feeling they're an outcast. If you're lonely, it's probably because of serious relationship problems. The more intimate problems a person has, the more likely they are to feel lonely. People with serious relationship problems, for example, are more likely to feel lonely than those with minor relationship problems. The chances of feeling lonely increase if you are having a certain number of relationship problems.

If you have mental problems but do not go to a
 after your health care professional has advised
 taking OLANZAPINE, notify your health care
 professional. Your health care professional should
 monitor you closely.

More problems. Your health care professional should know to check your legs before you take OZEMPIC and if you have symptoms of low or high blood sugar. Call your health care professional if you have any of the following symptoms of low or high blood sugar:

- loss of appetite
- cancer body pain
- dark urine
- yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes

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These may cause these side effects may include:

There is intra-company variation in site effects of DDT. Talk to your health care professional for a complete list of your health effects. And, tell your doctor you've been on DDT.

HOW DO I STORE CRUISTONS?

is a dry place. If your health care professional has
prescribed a dry place, you should not use
this product. Do not use this product if you
are pregnant or nursing. Do not use this product
if you are allergic to any of the ingredients.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE

Full-time staff are professional. Full-time information is available on CRISTOPOL.org by calling 1-800-CRISTOPOL.

GENERAL INFORMATION

[illegible]

Table 1

To-Do List

Fix Dishwasher

Mount Flat
Screen TV

Build Mudroom Bench

Tune in to Ask This Old House during August
for expert help with these projects and many more. For local listings, visit thisoldhouse.com/tv/schedule. Be sure to watch full-length, current episodes at thisoldhouse.com/watchthisoh.

**Ask
This Old
House**

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A food hub made for face time

Bumping out 8 feet allows for a modern eat-in kitchen designed to help a couple catch up with their kids BY LISA HEDGECOCK • PHOTOGRAPHS BY STACEY STANDFORD

SOMETIMES FORM RUINS FUNCTION. When Annette and Stephen Mann brought their late-Victorian-era home, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, they realized that its long, narrow kitchen, with cooking and cleanup space planned along one wall, just wouldn't work as a gathering place for them and their two daughters. Says Annette, "I dreamed of a square island, a place for the family to eat and talk about their day."

So the Manns called in designer Jane Lockhart to manage the space. Her plan bumped out the back wall by 8 feet to give them the island they were after. One real function is a table with three open sides for stools, facilitating face-to-face conversation. Flat-panel cabinets with simple inset molding, white-marble backsplash tile, and practical gray quartz and granite counters fit in keeping with the period house. Lockhart, whose aim was to "achieve a vintage look in a contemporary way," included distinctive details in the design, among them leaded-glass windows over the sink and polished nickel globe pendant lights above the island. "It's now a welcoming, comfortable, family-oriented space," says Annette. "Just what I wanted."



BEFORE Though large, the one-wall kitchen/habitat room for hanging out. **AFTER** Bumping out the back wall created a rectangular footprint that lets family-friendly center island big enough for everyone to pull up a stool.

• before • after:
kitchen

Loaded glass windows, bin-pull hardware, a set marble tile help the new space blend into the old house.

The granite-topped island has decorative square-table legs at one end.



before

The L-shaped space with appliances arrayed along one wall isolated the cook from the family room action.



after

Adding square footage allowed for a nearly square footprint, better flow, and an improved workspace.

1 Pumped out what to grow the sink wall by 6 feet. Or splined it with three windows and French doors. A continuous run of countertop forms a U around the room.

2 Widened the pass-through to the family room to open up the sight line. The wall marks the end of the new kitchen, which is separate a separate eating area in the former kitchen is all.



3 Added a large square to end with table-style seating along one end and a prep sink at the other.

4 Built in a barquette between two party nooks and added table and chairs for a dining nook.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL



It all starts with one wall.
Find the color you're sure to love with samples
designed to inspire confidence.

LOWE'S.COM/ColorSnap

• before • after:
kitchen

The rangehood "floats" in front of a backsplash of Ilsema Hildow-painted wicker tiles. Hood, Nord & Nord Range Wall



False drawer fronts hide a radiator metal mesh on the end cap above heat to escape

A coffee and wine bar is tucked into one of the pantry walls, and glass-paned doors atop help lighten the look of tall cabinetry. Cabinets, Brinc's Fine Furniture



FANTASY ISLANDS
Find 15 more great design ideas for kitchen remodels at thisoldhouse.com/aug2013

A built-in banquet table tucked by tall pantry cabinets creates an eating nook. Dark-chained oak floor's bold wash up the white cabinetry



homeowner tip ANNA-MARIA MARRA, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA
"I banned iPads, computers, and TV from the new kitchen so that we could concentrate on each other."



Industrial-style glass light adds drama over the Island Pendant Ginger

If you have an irregular heartbeat called atrial fibrillation, or AFib, not caused by a heart valve problem, **PRADAXA** can reduce your risk of stroke.

- In a clinical trial, **PRADAXA** reduced stroke risk 35% better than warfarin.
- Unlike warfarin, as a regular blood test.

Ask your doctor about
Pradaxa
dabigatran etexilate
PRADAXA

"With my Afib, I'm glad my daughter had me talk to my doctor again about reducing my stroke risk."



WHAT IS PRADAXA?

Pradaxa® (dabigatran etexilate mesylate) capsules is a prescription blood-thinning medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people with atrial fibrillation not caused by a heart valve problem. PRADAXA is not for use in people with critical (narrowed) heart valves.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT PRADAXA

Do not stop taking PRADAXA without talking to the doctor who prescribes it for you. Stopping PRADAXA increases your risk of having a stroke. PRADAXA may need to be stopped prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking PRADAXA and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking PRADAXA, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

PRADAXA can cause bleeding which can be serious and sometimes lead to death. Don't take PRADAXA if you:

- currently have internal bleeding,
- have ever had an allergic reaction to it,
- have had or plan to have a valve in your heart replaced

Your risk of bleeding with PRADAXA may be higher if you: are 75 years old or older, have kidney problems, have stomach or intestinal bleeding that is recent or keeps coming back or you have a stomach ulcer; take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding; take aspirin, products, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and blood thinners, have kidney problems and take dronedarone (Multaq®) or levothyroxine tablets (Nurothy).



Call your doctor or seek immediate medical care if you have any of the following signs or symptoms of bleeding: any unexplained, severe or uncontrollable bleeding; or bleeding that lasts a long time, unusual or unexpected bruising, coughing up or vomiting blood, or vomit that looks like coffee grounds, pink or brown urine, red or black stools (look like tar), unexpected pain, swelling or joint pain, headaches and feeling dizzy or weak.

Take PRADAXA exactly as prescribed. It is important to tell your doctors about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take. Some medicines may affect the way PRADAXA works.

PRADAXA can cause indigestion, stomach pain or burning, and stomach pain.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see more detailed Medication Guide on next page.



15C04554P02/2013

For more information or help paying for your medicine, call 1-877-PRADAXA or visit pradaxa.com



For handy tools and tips to compare your low to patient care, visit pradaxa.com

pradaxa.com

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking PRADAXA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This Medication Guide does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?

- People with atrial fibrillation (a type of irregular heartbeat) are at an increased risk of forming a blood clot in the heart, which can travel to the brain, causing a stroke, or to other parts of the body. PRADAXA lowers your chance of having a stroke by helping to prevent clots from forming. If you stop taking PRADAXA, you may have increased risk of forming a clot in your blood.

Do not stop taking PRADAXA without talking to the doctor who prescribes it for you. Stopping PRADAXA increases your risk of having a stroke.

PRADAXA may need to be stopped, if possible, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Ask the doctor who prescribed PRADAXA for you when you should also taking if your doctor will tell you when you may start taking PRADAXA again after your surgery or procedure. If you have to stop taking PRADAXA, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

- PRADAXA can cause bleeding which can be serious, and sometimes lead to a death. This is because PRADAXA is a blood thinner medicine that lowers the chance of blood clots forming in your body.
- You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take PRADAXA and:
 - are over 75 years old
 - have kidney problems
 - have stomach or intestine bleeding that is recent or keeps coming back, or you have a stomach ulcer
 - take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, including:
 - aspirin or aspirin containing products
 - long-term (chronic) use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
 - warfarin sodium (Coumadin®/Jantoven®)

Medication Guide
PRADAXA (see also 4)
(dabigatran etexilate mesylate)
capsules

- a medicine that contains heparin
 - ibuprofen/ascorbate (Plavix®)
 - aspirin (if you are)
 - have certain kidney problems and also take the medicines dexamethasone (Mobic®) or ketorolac tablets (Nurofen®).
- Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one listed above.
- PRADAXA can increase your risk of bleeding because it lessens the ability of your blood to clot. While you take PRADAXA,
 - you may bruise more easily
 - it may take longer for any bleeding to stop

Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:

- unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
 - unusual bleeding from the gums
 - nose bleeds that happen often
 - abnormal bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- pink or brown urine
- red or black stools (look like tar)
- bruises that happen without a known cause or get larger
- cough up blood or vomit blood
- watery blood or your stool looks like "coffee grounds"
- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain
- headaches, feeling dizzy or weak.

To take PRADAXA exactly as prescribed. Do not stop taking PRADAXA without first talking to the doctor who prescribes it for you. Stopping PRADAXA may increase your risk of a stroke.

PRADAXA may need to be stopped, if possible, for one or more days before any surgery or medical or dental procedure. If you need to stop taking PRADAXA for any reason, talk to the doctor who prescribed PRADAXA for you to find out when you should stop taking it. Your doctor will tell you when to start taking PRADAXA again after your surgery or procedure.

See "What are the possible side effects of PRADAXA?" for more information about side effects.

What is PRADAXA?
PRADAXA is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have a medical condition called atrial fibrillation. With

atrial fibrillation, part of the heart does not beat the way it should. This can lead to blood clots forming and increase your risk of a stroke. PRADAXA is a blood thinner medicine that lowers the chance of blood clots forming in your body. PRADAXA is not for use in people with artificial (prosthetic) heart valves. It is not known if PRADAXA is safe and works in children.

Who should not take PRADAXA?

Do not take PRADAXA if you:

- currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding. Talk to your doctor before taking PRADAXA if you currently have unusual bleeding
- have had a serious allergic reaction to PRADAXA. Ask your doctor if you are not sure
- have ever had a pain to have a valve in your heart replaced

What should I tell my doctor before taking PRADAXA?

Before you take PRADAXA, tell your doctor if you:

- have kidney problems
- have ever had bleeding problems
- have ever had stomach ulcers
- have any other medical condition
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if PRADAXA will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if PRADAXA passes into your breast milk.

Tell all of your doctors and dentists that you are taking PRADAXA. They should talk to the doctor who prescribed PRADAXA for you, before you have any surgery, or medical or dental procedure.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Some of your other medicines may affect the way PRADAXA works. Certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding. See "What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?"

Especially tell your doctor if you take:

- rifampin (Rifadin®/Rifamycin®)
- rifabutin (Mikobut®/Biktar®)
- rifapentine (Prevectin®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them and show it to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take PRADAXA?

• Take PRADAXA exactly as prescribed by your doctor.

- Do not take PRADAXA more often than your doctor tells you to.
- You can take PRADAXA with or without food.

• PRADAXA comes in a bottle or in a blister package.

• Only open 1 bottle of PRADAXA at a time. Finish your opened bottle of PRADAXA before opening a new bottle.

• After opening a bottle of PRADAXA, use within 4 months. See "How should I store PRADAXA?"

• When it is time for you to take a dose of PRADAXA, only remove your prescribed dose of PRADAXA from your open bottle or blister package.

• Tightly close your bottle of PRADAXA right away after you take your dose.

• Swallow PRADAXA capsules whole. Do not break, chew or empty the pellets from the capsule.

• If you miss a dose of PRADAXA, take it as soon as you remember. If your next dose is less than 6 hours away, skip the missed dose. Do not take two doses of PRADAXA at the same time.

• Your doctor will decide how often you should take PRADAXA. Do not stop taking PRADAXA without first talking with your doctor. Stopping PRADAXA may increase your risk of stroke.

• Do not run out of PRADAXA. Refill your prescription before you run out. If you plan to have surgery, or a medical or dental procedure, tell your doctor and dentist that you are taking PRADAXA. You may have to stop taking PRADAXA for a short time. See "What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?"

- If you take too much PRADAXA, go to the nearest hospital emergency room or call your doctor.
- Call your doctor or healthcare provider right away if you fall or injure yourself, especially if you hit your head. Your doctor or healthcare provider may need to check you.

What are the possible side effects of PRADAXA?

PRADAXA can cause serious side effects, including:

- See "What is the most important information I should know about PRADAXA?"

- Allergic Reactions. In some people, PRADAXA can cause symptoms of an allergic reaction, including hives, rash, and itching. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with PRADAXA:
 - chest pain or chest tightness
 - swelling of your face or tongue
 - trouble breathing or wheezing
 - feeling dizzy or faint

- indigestion, upset stomach, or burning
- stomach pain

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of PRADAXA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-555-0188.

How should I store PRADAXA?

- Store PRADAXA at room temperature between 59°F to 86°F (15°C to 30°C). After opening the bottle, use PRADAXA within 4 months. Safely throw away any unused PRADAXA after 4 months.

- Keep PRADAXA in the original bottle or blister package to keep it dry (prevent the capsules from becoming wet). Do not put PRADAXA in pill boxes or pill organizers.
- Tightly close your bottle of PRADAXA right away after you take your dose.

Keep PRADAXA and all medicines out of the reach of children

General information about PRADAXA
Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use PRADAXA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give your PRADAXA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. If they have them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about PRADAXA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about PRADAXA that is written for health professionals.

For more information, go to www.PRADAXA.com or call 1-800-544-6257 or (TTY) 1-800-459-9600.

What are the ingredients in PRADAXA?
Active ingredient: dabigatran etexilate mesylate

Inactive ingredients: acacia, dihydrochloride, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, talc, and triethyl citrate. The capsule shell is composed of croscarmellose, FD&C Blue No. 2 (150 mg strength only), FD&C Yellow No. 6, hydroxyethylcellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, titanium dioxide, and black edible ink.

This Medication Guide has been approved by FDA at 1-800-555-0188.

Manufacturer: Boehringer Ingelheim LLC, Ridgefield, CT 06477
Boehringer Ingelheim LLC, Ridgefield, CT 06477



PRADAXA is a registered trademark of Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

The information in this guide and the information on the capsule are not intended to be used for medical advice. The information in this guide is not intended to be used for medical advice. The information in this guide is not intended to be used for medical advice.

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PRADAXA (dabigatran etexilate mesylate) capsules, 150 mg

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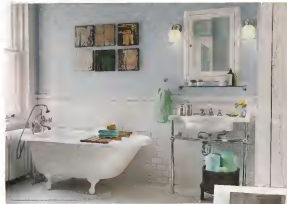
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Other stores claim their quality stacks up. But when you compare, they fall short. In fact, our floors come with the longest warranties, including Bellwood prefinished hardwood with a 100 Year Transferable Warranty. Plus, we offer the biggest selection, the lowest prices, and top-notch expertise so you get the right floor every time...

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Opening up for better function

Knocking out a walk-through closet and rethinking fixture placement bring more space, and good flow, to a master bath. BY SARAH HENGLER • PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANTON VANDER



"EXCUSE ME?" is a phrase no one should need to utter in her own bathroom. But in the 1830s Philadelphia rowhouse that Catherine Page shares with her husband, the crowded master bath overwhelmed each domestic. Even without an extra body, Catherine says, "A pass-through closet, a tiny shower, and a platform-mosaic tile made it feel cramped." Tangled wiring, sideways, they decided to gut the room.

The ripping out that ensued revealed additional problems—including, weekly 1970s plumbing conked under the stop-up lid. But, more important, it provided the couple with a clean, open 13-by-12-foot space in which to design their dream bath. With improving as few as a goal, they drafted the new layout on graph paper, using the necessary plumbing redo as an opportunity to replace fixtures, and replaced the ill-designed closet with streamlined storage. The couple left construction work—a call for humping in one of the walls by 6 inches to create space to run the new sink plumbing—to contractors, but they shopped online for most all of the tile, lighting, hardware, and fixtures. Doing that themselves paid off, Catherine says. "We saved a ton, and we love every last detail."



BEFORE The toilet sat on a platform to accommodate its weak line and had a disconcerting window view. The walled-in shower begged space and blockaded us of light.

AFTER The revamped room builds a new close-foot tub and a console sink along one wall, the shower and toilet lie on the adjacent windowed wall.

**before • after:
bath**

Porcelain subway tile is topped with a row of Carrara marble pencil tile and finished with a clear seal cap. Tile: Simba; Faucet/body: Designer Hardware; Mixer/valve: Pex



Drainage and window lifts salvaged from Victorian-era bathroom were transformed into the new bathroom.



after

Removing the walk-through closet created a more free-flowing bath with the fixtures arrayed around the perimeter.

before
A platform toilet, a boxed-in shower, and a bulging closet crowded the 144-square-foot room.



The custom new shower has lots of options: a marble mosaic tile wall that frames all new fittings, two frosted-glass walls and a space-saving sliding door that invites in light, and a handheld shower head for easy projects and bathing alike. Shower fittings: Auster

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Selected tile helps set away from the window near the shower.



TRANSFORMATIONS

Queen Anne meets Scandinavian Modern

THE CHALLENGE "Scandinavian Modern" is not a request that architects remodeling Victorian-era houses hear often. But that's exactly what Sally and John Peterson, the homeowners of the latest *The Old House TV* project house, were looking for. Inspired by Sally's Swedish heritage, they envisioned a beautiful, fully preserved exterior and simple, streamlined interior.

Enter Marcus Glynn, owner of Marcus Glynn Architects in Boston, Massachusetts, and winner of the 2011 Marvin® Windows and Doors Architects Challenge. Marcus had renovated a nearby home that the couple admired and they knew he could help them find the balance between historic accuracy and what they were looking for.

THE STRATEGY Preservation advisors typically don't approve of replacement and new construction windows, but Marvin offers an impressive array of period-appropriate options with authentic detail that make it possible.

Marcus created a modern open floor plan that maximizes natural light by adding more glass, not a shower and a fireplace. "window-wall" of glass in the morning with its view. Elsewhere in the house, he used wood replacement windows with period-appropriate detail to be sure that the house fit in with its historic neighbors. These windows and doors are designed to engage the environment outside by creating and framing a view, while still providing a sense of seclusion and shelter.

THE TRANSFORMATION The abundance of natural light highlights the minimalist design and new open floor plan, creating the welcoming space the Petersons were longing for. As Marcus explains, "The light coming through these windows not only engages the space of the house but also brings the people within them."

Marcus Glynn, AIA
Marcus Glynn Architects
Cambridge, Massachusetts
mgaa.com



TO WATCH THE CAMBRIDGE PROJECT UNFOLD
Go to www.marvin.com or follow Marvin Windows and Doors on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Problem-solvers and fresh finds

We found 25 great new products, from a capacious kitchen sink to bath tile in a perfect shade of spa blue. More good news: We're giving some of these items away.

mock butcher block

Shenando 284 Mini Oak laminate has a realistic wood look and stands up to daily spills, like vinegar, wine, and spilled milk. Available in September. \$30 per square foot (installed). wileysmart.com



super squeegee

This telescoping aluminum tool extends 18 inches to get to the top of your shower door. Question: hanging hook (included). \$25. wspencer.com



sunny color

The classic enamel hot tub cover comes in a shade called Spa Blue, inspired by an actual ocean on an open shelf. From \$205 (installed cost).



double duty

The bathroom's hand spray nozzle has its best moment shown twice. They work singly or as a pair displaying waves of droplets to make the most of less than 1/2 oz. \$245. delishiaut.com

touches of texture

Shapely pulls and knobs dress up cabinets in style. From \$10. Callisto: from \$11. Hahn: from \$16.60. Aesop: from \$16.60. Aesop: from \$16.60. Aesop: from \$16.60. bathessentials.com



affordable storage

This 8-foot-tall glass and powder-coated steel holds bath necessities while adding a refreshing pop of green. \$279. lisa.com



fresh food showcase

The Gallery has flip-up shelves and auto-close water dispenser and its wind-clear view provides a window for watching. \$2,099. ingridk.com



ahead of the curve

The cutting-edge shape of this accommodating 36-inch freestyle sink—available in England for Show—gives it added style and presence. \$1,079. redhills.com



steak touch-free

With its wave-of-hand action, the Seneca makes this duty, and its pull-down sprayer, done really with the help of a magnet. From \$479. baker.com



petrified-wood look

Lightweight colored concrete installed with a convincing faux-grain makes these ideal for kitchen counters, grill stands, shower niches, and more. About \$250 per square foot (installed). jazztypes.com



steam heat

Most of this white-body countertop steam-convection oven is an over-the-top for real recipes. Still call for wood and dry heat. From \$499 and probably to meet shaker and baked items. \$299. mishart.com



mood lifter

Five things best a shower curtain as a quick and easy upgrade. This cheery Turn Fruits serves polyester number from Fruits Square is sure to make you smile. \$400. bedandbeyond.com



PHOTOS: SHENANDO; MINI OAK: SHENANDO; SQUEEGEE: WSPENCER; TOUCHES OF TEXTURE: CALLISTO; AHEAD OF THE CURVE: RED HILLS; PETRIFIED WOOD: JAZZ TYPES; STEAM HEAT: MISHART; MOOD LIFTER: BED AND BEYOND

• kitchen + bath special

pop-in wine cellar
Install this 18-bottle storage unit with slide-out shelves inside a base cabinet. Attach four screws, and you're done. \$299; wine-lugs.com



candle power
Up the ante for your birthday less than 20 bucks! This chunky glass tumbler holds a scented candle that wicks out inches of lavender vanilla and sandalwood. \$36; pinkcandle.com



workhorse on wheels
Handmade in Michigan from heavy-duty cold-rolled-steel galvalume sheet, this 3-by-8-in. freestanding kitchen island offers ample prep and storage space. From \$3,999; kalamezopotamist.com



extra polish

With its cleaned-up Victorian styling and brushed-nickel finish, the Cape Anne countertop is as easy retrofit for any style bath—as it is a tub/shower glass back account. From \$289; danco.com

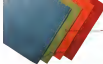
limestone look-alikes

Marble provides little warm-in-size and five subtle shades with natural flecking variations. Suitable for floors, walls and counters, outdoors or in. From \$5.87 per square foot; stoneislands.com



welcome bath tweaks

The Profitrol towel bar adjusts to any length from 28 to 32 inches, and the matching toilet paper holder pivots so that you can surface with a roll with one hand. Bar: \$35, and holder: \$30; mcm.com



standing-room style

Woven vinyl floor mats have a rubbery no-slip backing and come in a choice of soft colors and useful sizes. Price: \$179; danielhester.com



energy saver

A motor sensor automatically runs up and turns down the WhisperGreen LED fan light as you enter and exit. Leading Energy Star standards. \$193; panasonic.com/ventilator



open and shut

When company comes, the Basic Message Center cabinet pulls paperwork and magazines neatly behind a closed door. From \$509; cleanandclutterless.com



pantry helpmates

Sturdy, lightweight glass cabinet with a bright FlipLock lets check to time space, plastic, reusable tin canister. Set of three cartons, \$40; and complete \$2,999; apocallypse.com

architectural tile

The Formas ceramic collection, in Mini, includes chair rail, 5-by-10-in. inch rectangular frame and baseboard. From \$23 per square foot; mcm.com



clever curves

American Standard's single-lever ball fits in a typical 5-foot shower and has a curved front apron for extra splash-around space. \$259; american.com



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Uneven cooling and heating

is a common problem in most homes. Inadequate insulation and window and door leaks are common culprits, but sometimes it is simply a matter of your current system not being able to keep up with your home's cooling and heating demands. Before you consider an expensive overhaul of your entire HVAC system, think about spot-treating your home by installing a zoning ductless system like Mitsubishi Electric's M-Series. Their compact dimensions, restrained design and extra-quiet operation combine to offer the ultimate in room-by-room comfort control.

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Meet late summer's drama queens

In a showstopping array of colors, sizes, and shapes, dahlias can play a leading role in your garden's finale. BY DEBRA PRINZING

THEY SPEND the first half of summer waiting in the wings. Then—*pop!*—dahlias unfurl their showy blossoms just as summer's heat leaves most garden perennials in faded tatters. With their fanciful forms and fabulous hues, they're a surefire hit for anyone looking to give waning beds a color boost.

That's one reason these old-fashioned favorites have stood the test of time. "They were the 'it' flower from the mid-to-late 1800s and widely popular again in the early 1900s," says Scott Kunat, owner of Old House Gardens, a mail-order nursery specializing in heirloom plants. They've been a staple of cutting gardens and cottage-style plantings ever since, thanks to their long-lasting blooms and eye-catching nature. While spring is the time to plant their potato-like tubers, it's not too late to buy potted dahlias or garden centers to perk up your yard. Think of them as alternatives to end-of-season regulars, such as chrysanthemums and fall-flowering asters.

The daisy dahlia family includes thousands of named varieties, most of them falling into 19 categories. Types are designated by flower shape, from the miniature pom-pom and the daisy-like single to the spiky cactus bloom. Traces of the dahlia's wildflower past can be seen in older varieties, including the buttercup-like 'Clair de Lune' and the scarlet 'Bobop of Llandaff.' Recent selections, such as the candy-colored 'Tides Tides' and the ruffled 'Leslie Renee,' have more formal shapes, with the sturdy stems and perfect symmetry that garnish blue ribbons at garden shows today.

A garden of brightly
hued dahlias
thrives all year,
including this fall.



- landscaping

Delphiniums mingle well with other colorful late-summer perennials, such as cornflowers and rudbeckias, and add heavy edible garlands, where they attract pollinators. Among the most spectacular are the daisy-like delphiniums, with flowers up to 16 inches wide. These top-heavy characters hold their own beside ranunculus, anemones, and other big bloomers. All delphinium buds during their off season, however, leaving bare spots. "In a border, it's best to sprinkle delphiniums here and there, rather than planting them in patches," says flower farmer Diane Stronksky, who is based in the state of Washington.

Growing them is relatively easy if you know a few basic tips. No trees of Malabar, they thrive in rich, well-drained soil and require lots of sun. Because they're cultivated only in Zones 9 to 11, gardeners in legal regions often mist-dabbs as weeds, though they can be dug up and overwintered (see opposite page). Talers should be placed directly in the ground in late spring, after the soil warms up, about the same time you'd start our tomatoes. You can also give them a head start indoors, potting them up four to six weeks before the last expected frost. Don't water until after the first truly sunny day, however, since soggy soil causes rot in most Dahlias rather than 3 feet seed making, as we set bulbous points where you plant to avoid disturbing their roots later on.

To encourage blooming, water regularly once they're linked out, and apply a monthly dose of low-nitrogen fertilizer, starting shortly after planting and ending with a final feeding in mid-August. For a complete plan with lots of flowers, Hans Langsdorff, co-owner of Longfield Gardens, recommends pinching off the first bud on the center shoot, just below the third or fourth leaves. "This keeps the plant from putting all its energy toward producing just one flower," he says. And, of course, deadheading is essential. Dahlias are cut-and-come-again perennials, so if you're not regularly harvesting bouquets, be sure to remove spent blooms. Then they'll give you more performances well into fall, until a good hard frost ends the show.



6) Topping out at just 2 feet, *Pink Princess* is an early bloomer with corolla flowers. 7) A red-headed turner, *Blue Boy* grows 4-foot tall and dons pretty blossoms with pronounced centers. 8) Garden *My Clam* produces 2-inch-wide rounded blossoms. 9) *Cherry Biking* of *Jerseil* has red flowers that pop against moody black foliage. 10) A striking addition to any bouquet, *White Wile* favors star-like flowers on long, airy stems.

1) Five-foot-tall Lauren Michel's beauty is entirely internal with pale lavender petals and dark underparts.



and 30–40 cm above the surface of the water. The water column was sampled at 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000, 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050, 1060, 1070, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1210, 1220, 1230, 1240, 1250, 1260, 1270, 1280, 1290, 1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1360, 1370, 1380, 1390, 1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1660, 1670, 1680, 1690, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1760, 1770, 1780, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070, 2080, 2090, 2100, 2110, 2120, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190, 2200, 2210, 2220, 2230, 2240, 2250, 2260, 2270, 2280, 2290, 2300, 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2350, 2360, 2370, 2380, 2390, 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460, 2470, 2480, 2490, 2500, 2510, 2520, 2530, 2540, 2550, 2560, 2570, 2580, 2590, 2600, 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640, 2650, 2660, 2670, 2680, 2690, 2700, 2710, 2720, 2730, 2740, 2750, 2760, 2770, 2780, 2790, 2800, 2810, 2820, 2830, 2840, 2850, 2860, 2870, 2880, 2890, 2900, 2910, 2920, 2930, 2940, 2950, 2960, 2970, 2980, 2990, 3000, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3090, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280, 3290, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 3390, 3400, 3410, 3420, 3430, 3440, 3450, 3460, 3470, 3480, 3490, 3500, 3510, 3520, 3530, 3540, 3550, 3560, 3570, 3580, 3590, 3600, 3610, 3620, 3630, 3640, 3650, 3660, 3670, 3680, 3690, 3700, 3710, 3720, 3730, 3740, 3750, 3760, 3770, 3780, 3790, 3800, 3810, 3820, 3830, 3840, 3850, 3860, 3870, 3880, 3890, 3900, 3910, 3920, 3930, 3940, 3950, 3960, 3970, 3980, 3990, 4000, 4010, 4020, 4030, 4040, 4050, 4060, 4070, 4080, 4090, 4100, 4110, 4120, 4130, 4140, 4150, 4160, 4170, 4180, 4190, 4200, 4210, 4220, 4230, 4240, 4250, 4260, 4270, 4280, 4290, 4300, 4310, 4320, 4330, 4340, 4350, 4360, 4370, 4380, 4390, 4400, 4410, 4420, 4430, 4440, 4450, 4460, 4470, 4480, 4490, 4500, 4510, 4520, 4530, 4540, 4550, 4560, 4570, 4580, 4590, 4600, 4610, 4620, 4630, 4640, 4650, 4660, 4670, 4680, 4690, 4700, 4710, 4720, 4730, 4740, 4750, 4760, 4770, 4780, 4790, 4800, 4810, 4820, 4830, 4840, 4850, 4860, 4870, 4880, 4890, 4900, 4910, 4920, 4930, 4940, 4950, 4960, 4970, 4980, 4990, 5000, 5010, 5020, 5030, 5040, 5050, 5060, 5070, 5080, 5090, 5100, 5110, 5120, 5130, 5140, 5150, 5160, 5170, 5180, 5190, 5200, 5210, 5220, 5230, 5240, 5250, 5260, 5270, 5280, 5290, 5300, 5310, 5320, 5330, 5340, 5350, 5360, 5370, 5380, 5390, 5400, 5410, 5420, 5430, 5440, 5450, 5460, 5470, 5480, 5490, 5500, 5510, 5520, 5530, 5540, 5550, 5560, 5570, 5580, 5590, 5600, 5610, 5620, 5630, 5640, 5650, 5660, 5670, 5680, 5690, 5700, 5710, 5720, 5730, 5740, 5750, 5760, 5770, 5780, 5790, 5800, 5810, 5820, 5830, 5840, 5850, 5860, 5870, 5880, 5890, 5900, 5910, 5920, 5930, 5940, 5950, 5960, 5970, 5980, 5990, 6000, 6010, 6020, 6030, 6040, 6050, 6060, 6070, 6080, 6090, 6100, 6110, 6120, 6130, 6140, 6150, 6160, 6170, 6180, 6190, 6200, 6210, 6220, 6230, 6240, 6250, 6260, 6270, 6280, 6290, 6300, 6310, 6320, 6330, 6340, 6350, 6360, 6370, 6380, 6390, 6400, 6410, 6420, 6430, 6440, 6450, 6460, 6470, 6480, 6490, 6500, 6510, 6520, 6530, 6540, 6550, 6560, 6570, 6580, 6590, 6600, 6610, 6620, 6630, 6640, 6650, 6660, 6670, 6680, 6690, 6700, 6710, 6720, 6730, 6740, 6750, 6760, 6770, 6780, 6790, 6800, 6810, 6820, 6830, 6840, 6850, 6860, 6870, 6880, 6890, 6900, 6910, 6920, 6930, 6940, 6950, 6960, 6970



How to dig up and overwinter dahlias

If you live in Zones 2 to 8 and want to keep your prized specimen blooming year after year, you can dig them up and keep them in a cool, dry spot. Follow the steps below, and you'll have tubers ready for planting come spring—and likely a few extras to share with friends.



2. Cut off the stalks two weeks after the first hard frost. Leave roughly 6 inches of stems intact. Use a shovel or a pitchfork to gently lift the tubers from the ground being careful not to break their stems.

2. Remove off-skins at 200°F and place the skins flat out dry in a sheltered spot for 24 hours. Then place them in crates or cardboard boxes lined with 10 to 12 sheets of dry newspaper.

3. Cover the tubers with slightly dampened peat moss, sand, sawdust or wood shavings. Store in a cool, dry place, such as a shed, an unheated basement, or a garage. Too warm, tubers sprout; it too cold, they freeze or rot. Check them monthly and rehydrate if necessary. ■

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A guest room—and more—outdoors

An overgrown lot gets a generous deck and an open-air structure to become a three-season entertaining space. BY SARAH ENGLISH • PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRIAN GONSAK

A BIG BACKYARD isn't necessarily a noble one. Take the quarter-acre lot behind John and Linda Marshall's 1996 home, in Seasideville, North Carolina. It had plenty of trees and a little patio with next to no seating, plus rhododendrons, like sprawling shrubbery and a chain-link fence. The space was uninviting enough to keep the couple from enjoying it themselves, much less with friends.

The Marshalls wanted an outdoor area to cook, eat, and relax in, as a family and with guests. "We thought we'd just build a little deck," Linda says. Then they met with local garden designer Jon Knight and contractor Bryan George, and a grander plan took shape. Clearing away the space-hogging shrubs would make room for an expansive two-level deck and a covered outdoor room with a firestone fireplace at one end. Stone pathways and beds of vibrant blooms would bring up and unify the rest of the yard.

The result is an outdoor living and gathering space that in under 10 months of the year, says John, who looks forward to hosting the couple's 50th high-school reunion—and more than 50 former classmates—this fall. But that won't end the party season. "With the fireplace," Linda says, "we'll be able to invite company to sit outside as late as December."



BEFORE The patio sat on a corner of undeveloped lawn next to the garage and garden shed. **AFTER** A large deck with a covered outdoor room, complete with a stone hearth and a face-top brick wall, makes a great place for get-togethers. Furniture: Bernhardt; Pillows: Pottery Barn.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JON K. ENGLISH FOR ENGLISH PHOTOGRAPHY

**• before + after:
backyard**

An old pickling pot holds elegant vases. 'Weekend robin' and 'Dragon Wing' begonia. Other flowering plants were chosen to lure butter flies and birds.



the plan

The raised center section of the new pressure-treated and stained pine deck connects the enlarged patio to the outdoor structure. The deck itself has two distinct levels, each with separate seating areas.



The building materials for the outdoor room echo those of the house. Some of the slate for the patio and pathways was found on-site.



Appliances are brought to the outdoor room. Since the grill is built into the deck, the contractor ran power around the deck to wire the whole room. Picture: Alister

The two-level deck of more than 820 square feet has several seating areas. The portion with the covered outdoor room has a built-in stainless steel grill.



homeowner tip JOHN MARSHALL, STANFORD, NC

"We finished the grill island with a U-shaped granite countertop. It gives guests a level surface to set drinks on when they come over to chat."



The grilling station, built from the same fieldstone as the fireplace, is located on a stamped-concrete patio nearly 30 feet from the deck to prevent smoke from drifting into the seating area.

MORE OUTDOOR ROOMS
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Build a cedar ice chest

Make a handsome cooler enclosure to update
a backyard essential. BY JOHN CAREY • PHOTOGRAPHS BY KATHLEEN SMITH



609F 5275

TIME 12 hours over two days
DIFFICULTY Moderate. The plywood and built-in lid requires custom router work.

READY FOR A COLD ONE? Not so fast. It will taste even better after you build this beauty for your deck or patio. We used it around an off-the-shelf 30-quart plastic cooler. Made of cedar, the box features a brass spigot to take the heavy lifting out of drinking cooled ice, a stainless-steel continuous hinge for the lid, and a classic bottle opener right out front, sparing you that frantic hunt for a way to open your frosty beverage. Follow along as The Old House contributor Christopher Beisel, owner of *Pine*, a handmade-furniture company in Brooklyn, New York, walks you through the simple step-by-step process of making your own classic cooler.

Lumber Grade-Ace Better and was better and cedar. 12 of your local tool suppliers can order spigots. Blue Sky Cedar \$50. globo-stone.com

DAY-TO-DAY
TIMELINE

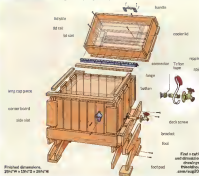
SATURDAY Build the box (Steps 1–2)
SUNDAY Build the legs and lid, and assemble the pieces (Steps 3–7)

TOOLS

tape measure
circular saw
long and short bar clamps
drill/driver
16-inch combination countersink bit
straightedge
circular saw
router with a 1/4-inch straight bit
1/4-inch twist bit
1/4-inch Forstner (or spade) bit
two adjustable wrenches

MATERIALS

1x4 cedar Get cedar 2x4-footers (you can Blue Max Cold 50 cooler with thru-drain plug) Go to go.houzz.com
1x4, 1x6, and 2-inch deck screws
1/4-inch brass or stainless-steel screws for the lid slats
1/4-inch brass spigot
1/4-by-3/4-inch brass nipple
1/4-inch brass double female connector
25-inch brass or stainless-steel carbon-fiber hinge
brass or stainless-steel gate handle
24-inch brass or stainless-steel walk chain
self-mount bottle opener
Teflon tape
double-sided foam tape



1 BUILD THE BOX BOTTOM

A) Make the frame. On a meter saw, make all the straight cuts per the cut list. Use long bar clamps to hold the box's four frame boards together with the short ones between the long ones. Using a 1/4-inch combination countersink bit, drill two pilot holes, attach joint, and secure the frame with 1/4-inch deck screws.
B) Install the slats. Place one slat inside the frame against its edge. Using the combo bit, drill two pilot holes through the face of the frame and into each end of the slat as shown, and secure it to the frame with 1/4-inch deck screws. Add two more screws into the edge of the slat. Install the slat at the opposite edge the same way. Install the other two slats evenly spaced between the first two, secured only at the ends.

2 ASSEMBLE THE BOX

A) Attach the side slats. Set the box bottom on an edge and lay the first slat over the inside of the frame, about 1 inch from a corner. Use the combo countersink bit to drill two staggered pilot holes. Then secure the slat with 1/4-inch deck screws. Attach the adjacent slat, using a spacer to create a consistent gap. Keep going until all the side slats are installed, and don't worry about gaps at the corners—they get covered in the next step.
B) Make the corners. Clamp one corner board in place, resting on the top edge of the frame, 1/4 inch shy of the corner. Place the adjacent corner board overlapping the edge of the clamped board, and use the combo bit to drill pilot holes through the face and into the first board's edge at the top and bottom. Secure the corner with 1/4-inch deck screws. Then, from the inside of the box, drive 1/4-inch deck screws through the corner slats and into the corner boards. Repeat for the remaining corners.
C) Install the cap. Lay a long cap piece on top of the slats and corner boards on one side of the box. Drive countersinks and pilot holes through the face of the cap piece and into the tops of the slats and corner boards. Secure it with 1/4-inch deck screws. Install the other long cap piece, then install the two short ones between the long ones.

3 CUT THE FEET AND BRACKETS

A) Lay out the slats. Mark the center point of the face of a flat blank. Measure and mark out 1/4 inches from both sides of that point. Make a mark 2 1/4 inches down from the top corners of the blank, and use a string line to connect the top marks with the side marks to form two diagonal outlines.
B) Make the cuts. Position the blank with the waste angle off the table. Clamp a straightedge parallel with the outline, using a piece of scrap to support one end if necessary (see sketch). Set the circular saw blade depth to 1 inch, and run the shoe along the straightedge to cut the first angle. Use the same setup to cut the other angle, then use the piece to trace outlines on the remaining seven blanks for the feet and brackets and cut them in the same manner.



SEE HOW IT'S DONE
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this project with the Houzz app. Sign
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4 ASSEMBLE THE BASE

A) Build the leg assemblies. Clamp a 1/4-inch piece of scrap between two leg pieces. Center a foot on the edge of the leg piece so that all pieces are flush at the bottom. Make four countersinks (two for each leg piece) through the face of the foot and into the edge of the legs. Secure the foot with 1 1/2-inch deck screws. Repeat with the remaining feet, and install the brackets as minor images at the feet. Remove the scrap boards. Then attach each foot pad with four 1/4-inch deck screws.

B) Install the leg assemblies. Set the box on its side, and mark the location of the leg assembly on the bottom. Lay the assembly in place; drill pilot holes, and drive 2-inch deck screws through the face of the bottom plate into the edges of the leg brackets, as shown. Repeat for the second leg assembly.

TIP Cedar is naturally rot-resistant, but if you want the natural red color to last, periodically apply teak oil to keep ultraviolet rays from graying the wood.

5 MAKE THE LID

A) Rout the lid rails and slots. Set a mill on your work surface; place a scrap board directly behind it, and clamp a third board over the first two to act as a router guide, as shown. Put a 1/4-inch straight bit in your router. Set it to 1/4 inch and make multiple passes, lowering the bit each time until the rabbet is 1/4 inch deep. Rout the other rail. Clamp the last lid slot edge to edge, and clamp these lids and a router guide to your work surface. Rout matching rabbets 1/4 inch deep on both ends of the slots.

B) Install the rails and stiles. Follow the instructions in Step 3A to build the lid frame. Set the lid in place; top it off, and use your drill/driver to make a countersink at each of the board's four corners, plus two more spaced evenly along the long edge of the lid. Secure the stile with 1 1/2-inch deck screws. Install the opposite stile. To install the rails, place them between the stiles; rabbet side up, and drill four countersinks into the frame edges for each rail. Secure them with 1 1/2-inch deck screws.

C) Add the lid stiles. Lay the stile rabbet side up on your work surface and fit the lid upside down over them. Use spacers to get an even distance between stiles. Mark two countersinks at each joint, and use a screwdriver to secure the stiles to the rails with 1/4-inch brass or stainless-steel screws.



6 INSTALL THE COOLER

A) Secure the cooler. Place the cooler in the box. Mark the location of the drain scribe on the inside of the box, as shown. Remove the cooler, put a 1/4-inch band (also from the cooler), and make a hole at your mark from inside the box.

B) Add the batten and the drain hole. The batten adds strength to the spot where the scribe exits. Place the batten on the top edge of the frame, centered on the hole, and secure it by driving 1/4-inch deck screws from inside the box into each corner. Then put a 1-inch Forstner (or a pad) bit in your drill. Center the bit over the hole you drilled in Step 6A, and make a hole all the way through the side of the box, as shown.

C) Install the drain pipe. Remove the cooler, if needed, and place the cooler in the box. Screw together the brass spigot, nipple, and downspout, using Teflon tape on the threads. Use two side-by-side wood screws to tighten the assembly. Then pass the spigot through the hole and thread the drain pipe through the cooler's downspout. Tighten it gently by hand.



7 FINISH THE ICE CHEST

A) Attach the lid to the box. Set the lid on top of the box. Use your drill/driver to secure the corner braces to the lid pieces with the included screws. Then place the cooler before the cooler. Affix two pieces of double-sided foam tape to the under side of the lid stiles, and secure the box's lid. The tape should grab the cooler's lid. Open the box's lid and make four 1/4-inch pilot holes through the cooler lid, as shown, and screw into the lid stiles.

B) Add the hardware. Use your drill/driver to attach the lid handle and the bottle opener with the included screws. To prevent the lid from falling backward, screw a length of wash chain on one side, from inside the box to the inside edge of the lid.





Seaweed-and-trunked built-in, barn-style sliding doors, and a fresh color palette reflect the new attic retreat.

VINTAGE COTTAGE, TIMELESS APPEAL



A classic redo brings a simple 1910 house up-to-date with an attic hangout for kids and an expansive kitchen ready to welcome family and friends

BY JILL CONNORS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL J. LEE

IT WAS A SERIOUS CASE

of water on the brain. For 30 long years, a Boston-area couple had looked for a house right on the shore without finding anything they loved. Turned off by the charming McMansions multiplying on Cape Cod and Boston's North Shore and by skyrocketing prices for the area's waterfront property, they simply kept looking.

What they found in Gloucester, a historic town on Cape Ann, the rocky mass of land at the northern edge of Massachusetts Bay, quickly cured their water-on-the-brain. In fact, it convinced them that life could be good—maybe even better—away from the water's edge.

"I loved the house right away," says the wife, about this early-1900s gray-shingled home in Amesquam, a neighborhood of late-19th- and early-20th-century structures. The three-story house, which they bought from a family who'd lived in it for 93 years, had its original Dutch door, complete with skeleton key. Behind it lay five bedrooms, acres of beachfront, exposed beams, and a remodeling attic just waiting to be transformed into a hangout for the couple's two sons, ages 14 and 16.

The place was a find, for sure, but one in need of updates. While the house had been enlarged in the 1980s with a second-floor addition over the garage and had plenty of rooms—and rooms—it also had shortcomings. At the top of the "beach work" like a closed-off, chipped-up kitchen and bathroom that had seen better days. "The homeowners liked the old architecture and the pattern that had come with the years," says Jennifer Palumbo, the interior designer they hired to drive the renovation. "Our goal was to make the house feel current and suit their needs." This unfinished attic had a long way to go. Through a tangle of square footage with loads of potential, it was stuffy, unisolated storage space with dark, unpainted hardwood walls, tiny windows, and sad lead-speckled floors.

The work would begin with opening up and renovating the kitchen. From there the team would move to the third floor, transforming the attic into a bunk room with a new bathroom for the boys. The bath rules—three on the second floor and a powder room on the first—would follow. A whole-house systems upgrade was on the plan, too, swapping outdated mechanical for new, energy-efficient heating and cooling units.



KITCHEN'S OPEN ABOVE: Two islands—a prep station (foreground) and a dining and eating bar—help the extended kitchen function for several. The cabinet doors are a healthy mix of white, off-white, and distressed. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** Details can spill from the kitchen through a swinging door in the dining room's long table. The room's heart pine floors, breastboard walls, and ceiling beams are all original.

For every part of the project, the biggest challenge was also a primary source of the place's charm: The house did not have conventional interior walls. "The walls were 14-inch tongue-and-groove beaded boards, and every ceiling showed exposed-beam frame structure," says contractor Chris Mearns. "That's common in designs here. It makes it difficult to hide plumbing and electrical lines." The solution was to strategically add sections of dropped ceiling and box out other areas throughout the house to act as cover for ductwork, plumbing, and wiring.

With a plan for hiding the unsightly and staying within the house's existing footprint, Palumbo and kitchen designer Donna Vengas got to work on the first floor,



OLD MEETS NEW BELOW: Throughout the home, original exposed ceiling beams are painted in simple beach-lighting fixtures mounted directly on the beams. The living room includes a media center in a corner cabinet (at left), the sofa and a window seat. The floors are new, constructed of reclaimed heart pine and matched to the home's originals.



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TUCKED AWAY (LEFT) An original in this room's history: Defined by built-in benches surrounded the home's brick fireplace. It is now tucked away in the dining room by taking the table to wall above site of the benches down to its former. A dropped ceiling overhead made its dust-free and being for an outdoor bar scene.



IN AND OUT (LEFT) The front entry's slatted door is original in the built-in porch area by ADIRONCK. The existing covered front porch was left intact, and the floor and ceiling were refreshed. A new porch facing a fence for reading spot.



The facade looks largely as it did in 1910, but the addition of windows on the second and third floors.

floor plans

Inside, the new, expanded kitchen stretches from the back of the existing fireplace to the rear exterior wall. A bedroom, a bathroom, and two seating areas were carved out of the former attic.



FLOOR PLANS BY JAMES

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creating a bright, spacious cooking and entertaining area where there had once been "lots of headboard and a bad use of space," says Palumbo. Knocking down walls and adding several windows and doors—including a dark hallway and a rear entry—they opened up a 19-by-18-foot room. In the process, Morano found a few rotten timbers, which he shored up with an engineered beam. The layout changes extended the kitchen out to the house's exterior walls on two sides, where new windows were in, while others were enlarged for more natural light and to provide a glimpse of one of the area's best features: a craggy landscape of ledge rock.

On the inside, the objective was to turn the room into a food-prep area and a prime entertaining spot. "The kitchen is a terrific example of the trend toward making a family space," says Wronski. The homeowners wanted the house to be a place where they could really spend time with their boys, the family love to brew beer for the entire hockey or lacrosse team—parents and children—so they might have as many as 30 adults and 15 kids in the house at one time. To create a mixing and sitting spot for the whole crowd, Palumbo designed two marble-topped islands, one for fixing or serving food and the other for those enjoying it to gobble up, and there. An

area of dropped ceiling above the social island was built from scrap-wood-groove for headboard, to match the room's original walls, and brass-ductwork and wiring. Surface-mounted track lighting lines the kitchen beams that remain exposed, illuminating cooking trials.

The dining room, adjacent to the kitchen and connected by an existing swinging door, was heavily touched. The walls, beams, and heart-pine floors are all original. To improve the flow of light between the dining and living rooms, Palumbo wanted to remove an attic not well-lit or connected at all, since it served to enclose an original angle oak flanking the house's fireplace. In the end, the wall directly above one of the built-in benches was opened up, with the supporting posts left intact; the revision not only lets light stream through from window on both sides but also successfully unifies the two rooms.

Needing the large-scale renovation of the third floor's unfinished attic, where slanted walls, few windows, and floor-to-ceiling original unfinished beaded-lafit felt like a dark and original. The homeowners envisioned it as

UP AND AWAY RIGHT

Kidging from floors with shingles, three 1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2" added a new level of light to the bed room. More transoms windows above the doors allow light to flow from one end of the third floor space to the other. BELOW: A new built-in bed offers the new bedroom a view of the living room and opposite the new window on the left that offers a water view. Transoms windows (on the left) channel light into the new bathroom.



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CLEAN AND TOY BELOW The open lounge area on the third floor includes a small bed, window seat and low slung benching chairs. **BOTTOM and RIGHT** The new bathroom is a lovely space with a white and blue color. The new and vintage other side of the blue color. The subway tile shower is included with a new glass.



both a private and a social space for their teenage sons, complete with built-in beds and a furnished area where they could look back with their friends. "They wanted it to be lovely and fun," Palumbo says, "while respecting the historical nature of the house."

Throughout the space, the headboard was pulled up to that spray machine could be added; the boards were then reinstalled, and the ceilings and walls were painted white. Barn-style sliding doors, painted a lively blue green, were added to the newly windowed bedrooms above, transoms windows above the doors help natural light flow to other rooms. A new built-in across the hall. The hanging-out area, which got a larger window and a room-width window seat, is nestled inside the home's front gable end. Altogether it's a space the kids and their friends gravitate to, playing laser hockey on the long, open center space and rolling out sleeping bags at night.

With the two big projects complete, the rest felt more like cleanup than major construction. The stairway leading from the second to the third floor got a rebuilt railing. Second-floor bedrooms got fresh paint, and those bathrooms received their own. "Simple and neutral was the idea," says Palumbo, who used white fixtures, natural stone and limestone for the floors, and more headboard for walls and vanities.

That same easy-going spirit is found throughout the home, a place with room for everyone. The wife says the look is relaxed with a house full of pieces of holiday time as she does on a quiet summer weekend with just the family. "The house had a wonderful, happy warmth to it and a genuine historical look," she says, noting what sold her on the place from the start. Then she says up the end success of the renovation. "And it will do."

FLAIR UNDERFOOT

FIVE
WAYS TO
ENLIVEN
A PORCH
FLOOR
WITH
PATTERN

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
DEBORAH WHITLAW
LLENELLYN
PRODUCED BY
COLETTE SCANLON
STYLING BY BRIAN CARTER



Porch enamel and a paper laminate turned a plain concrete slab into a colorful carpet. On the following pages, you'll find the step-by-step plus several more patterns designed to flatter your outdoor rooms.

Stylish outdoor living calls for fresh thinking, and Brian Carter, a decorative painter in Atlanta, knows just where to focus when a front porch, a screened porch, or a sunroom is at play. "Since more thought is going into furnishings and accessories," he says, "why not look to the floor as a surface that can be treated decoratively too?"

Carter, the mastermind behind the porch-floor designs in this story, says keys to a great paint job include dry, pollen-free weather, paints and stains geared for use on floors, and a soft color palette.

Take the Colorful Carpet design here and on the preceding pages. Warm gray is the backdrop for a modern chain-link design filled with patches of pale orange, blue, and green. Carter used a single template and worked freehand—and, yes, his legs did get sore. "Be sure, each time you sit, to switch them from one side to the other," he says.

Read on for his Colorful Carpet how-to, plus four more designs that can energize the floor of your favorite outdoor room, whether plain concrete, brick, or wood.

1

STEP-BY-STEP

COLORFUL CARPET



1



2



3

1 Prime the concrete and apply a base coat of floor and patio latex enamel. Let it dry at least 24 hours. Starting at the center of the floor, use a ruler and chalk to mark off dotted lines the length of the porch, about 12 inches apart.

2 Create a template using heavy paper or posterboard. Carter's was a 10 by 16-inch rectangle with a 3 by 12-inch patch cut out of its center and 3 by 10-inch tabs at each end. Starting in one corner, align the center of the template with the chalk line and trace it with chalk.

3 Move the template up and repeat. Dots in along every other chalk line.



6



4 Along the remaining lines, stagger the template by aligning the center cutout with the tabs to its left and right, as shown. Trace the template with chalk and continue.

5 Using a 1-inch flat artist's brush, fill in the tabs and borders with a second shade. Let the paint dry.

6 Decide which outlets will be left orange and mark them with an O, using the same brush. Fill them in, leaving a ribbon of base coat about 1/8 inch wide around the colored patch.

7 Alternate two other colors in the remaining squares. Let the paint cure for two days before strolling and coil across the porch—to need to remove your shoes.

Shawn Bergman Moore is Colorful Gray LLC's creative lead. Follow @shawn on Instagram. CC 2013 Orange Blossom, 2013, 2014. All rights reserved. www.shawnmoore.com

FOUR MORE DESIGNS

2/ BROAD BANDS

To soften the look of a porch bound in brick, Carter grouted the floor and walls with a tone coat of gray. Introducing color and stain. Adding wide bands of stain in a contrasting color on the floor adds distinction to the space, Carter says. And because the bands sit across the floor, also on the ground lines, mimicking the lines of the parallel ceiling beams, the pattern also makes this small outdoor room seem larger.

3/ OVERSIZE BLOSSOMS

Though the floorboards were scratched and dinged, Carter was glad to have what he calls a built-in room. "I've learned to coordinate patterns with plank width so that I can cut across it. It saves time and money," he says. "and the rhythm of the planks can influence the design." Here, board width guided placement of two terrapins, a four-panel blossom the width of six boards and an oval tea table as wide. Carter also noted that placement from top to bottom, painting a pattern that contrasts with the window and door grids while warming up the space.



2



3



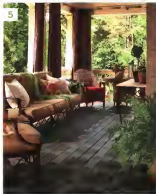
GET THE HOW-TO
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4/ BIG-BLOCK BASKETWEAVE

To introduce a basketweave floor, Carter began with a base coat of clear gray, gray-tinted concrete sealer. Then, he marked off the largest square possible, using a chalk line between two opposite corners. He then drew a 2-foot square, dividing off the diagonal. Each square became two alternating block-like rectangles, which he outlined with concrete sealer tinted pale gray. The pattern's diagonal tension seems to stretch the length of the room while contrasting with the angular shapes of the stones in the fireplace surround and the stairs just outside.

5/ TRADITIONAL GEOMETRIC

The room was so different from the others that Carter had to go back much further. "The large scale works well," Carter says. "And the homeowners also liked the traditional feeling of the pattern," which is not unlike ones seen in Victorian-era engravings. He and his wife and son, using tools that go back much further, Carter devised a pattern with an octagon across four boards and a diamond the width of one board, all on a single template. He outlined the shapes carefully and used plenty of painter's tape to keep the geometry crisp.



5

THE ULTIMATE BONUS ROOM

...just might be a shed
you add outside.
Here's how one couple built
a sheltered workspace
with a traditional look
that enhances their home's
vintage charm



by Joanne Huber • photographs by Mark Lohman
produced by Colette Scanlon • styling by Sundy Hendrickson



With multiple windows and doors and a
telling, the shed plays a key role in Lohman's
home's vintage look. Paint: Benjamin Moore's
Wendell Place (walls) and Waterbury Green (trim).

A GARDEN SHED CAN BE MORE

than a place to store tools and towels. It can serve as an extra workspace, a hobby room, or even a retreat, a place to get away from it all. Whichever activities go on inside, a primary consideration should be what it will look like on the outside, to ensure it fits landscape enhancement, rather than ruins it. That means getting the size and details right for the site, whether the shed stands off on its own in the back of the yard or sits up near the house.

Sharon Loney and Jeff Prosserovich succeeded in creating the just-right shed, shown here, to support her passion for plants and the career she's built as a garden writer, author, and columnist. Christened "Spig," the shed holds some of the garden collectibles that inspire Sharon's illustrations, gives her a place to dry herbs, and serves as a backup studio to her main workspace, an outbuilding in the backyard of the couple's San Luis Obispo, California, home.

Once Sharon and Jeff decided to add a shed, they faced every homeowner's first decision: where to put it. Almost every inch of their 8.5-by-110-foot lot was spoken for with the studio and established gardens that feed Sharon's work. But there was an unused spot, about 7 by 12 feet, near the front of the house, just inside the stone wall that surrounds the property. So they decided to build there, steps from their front door and next to a patio with a metal arbor, which they covered with succulents and fencing for a shady potting area. In such a prominent place, "the shed's proportions were very important," says Jeff, a real-estate broker, who played chief designer on the project.

Rather than mimic the Spanish Revival style of their 1930 house, Jeff decided to complement it by making the shed look like a tiny traditional home, with a peaked roof, board-and-batten-style siding, and wood-framed windows. To provide an air gap between the shed and the wall, he sketched the shed's depth to 6 feet 3 inches when he sketched a basic design, with a gable at each end of the long dimensions. Then he tested his design by erecting a frame of 2x4s and scrap wood. "Drawing it out is one thing," he says. "Seeing it is different." To keep the scale right, he decided to make the walls just 7 feet high. "Eight feet would have looked odd with such a narrow space," he says. "I didn't want a tunnel sitting in the back yard."

When sheds have short walls, the door typically goes on one gable end to keep it from bumping into the roof overhanging. But for this shed, the door needed to be on the side facing the front door of the house. Jeff solved the problem by adding an extra gable over the door. To keep the walls from seeming low and to boost the air-life space within the tiny structure, he left the ceiling vaulted to the roof. He also



ABOVE: Home-center seed fencing turned a metal arbor above the doghouse into a shady structure for Sharon's outdoor potting. A bush table serves as a peeling bench for small projects, she just brushes or hoes it off when she's done. Then the table resumes its original role: holding a cup of hot tea or a cool drink.



FAIR LEFT: An old screen door repurposed from their previous house swings out, a multi-light door from the Stone swings in. Repurposed cushion ERT in for additional ventilation. **LEFT:** Sharon uses an old cedar rack to display vintage seed packets, graphics that she regards as "miniature works of art." **BELOW:** Flowers fill the screen-tops of a drying rack that was custom-made for Sharon. To the right of it is an old fruit-drying rack that she uses to dry everything from plums to peppers to marigold blossoms.





hinged out the windows on both ends, creating four-deep windowsills to serve as storage ledges. Happy at last with the shed's design, the couple turned pros to build it.

For the foundation, the builders used pressure-treated paver blocks. Even in regions where the soil doesn't, garden sheds usually define with this type of foundation; the building may get slightly askew as the soil thaws, but its small size keeps such changes small, too, and the design typically locks into shape. The crew built the floor with pressure-treated framing resting on the pavers. Off that, they assembled the walls, using exterior-grade plywood with spaced 1x4 boards on top to mimic board-and-batten siding. Plywood sheets are easy to install and more weather-tight than traditional board-and-batten, which use wide boards with narrow ones nailed on over the joints.

To create a vintage look—and save money—Sharon and Jeff shopped for true divided-light windows at their local K&W's, hanging the sashes of old double-hung to tilt in on the long walls. Their big score was the fixed windows at the gable ends; the two new double-pane windows, worth \$600 or more each, were priced at just \$250—likely because some that were donated because they were the wrong size. The roof is simple corrugated metal. Knotty pine covers the interior, 1x12 boards butted together on the floor and 1x6 V-groove boards on the walls. In total, with \$4,600 for labor and \$3,600 for materials, the project cost \$8,200—not as cheap as a big-box shed kit, but, then, it's a tailored-to-fit job with an ultra-charming look.

Sharon is in the shed more days, putting away her ornaments and creating her herb concoctions—it's an "away" spot that fuels her work. "A playhouse is what I always wanted when I was a child," she waxes, "once the project was completed. 'My own little house in which I could knit, dream, dream, and make entire worlds of my own.' Auntie made apparent, a garden shed can be that, too."

BELOW The shed also accommodates Sharon's artwork as a sort of studio studio. Here, a small green table holds her new brooder of a fall harvest or bird that appears in her take of work. *By Fred Wolf and Fred Foster (Illustration: 2012)*



TOP The top shelf along the shed's back end stores tiny pots, plant labels, and a few small items. Below it, two trough-type chicken feeders serve as bird feeders and garden beds. Once old Auntie's heavy watering fabric, vintage straw boxes (ABOVE) will still hold in light or heavy water. Five vintage containers for more seeds on wall or table. A bit to the left of the table stores small garden tools perfect for the grandkids. Under the table are vintage watering cans, affordable collections still readily found at flea markets and yard sales.

GROWING AND DRYING HERBS



ABOVE Sharon sorts her garden herbs to dry. Flower heads including rosebuds, lavender, violets, and pink. **BELOW** Sharon makes her own herb infused vinegars for salad dressing and marinades—and for giving as gifts. That kind, at the far right, is one of her favorites: lavender, shallot, and olive. *Illustration: 2012*



PACKED INTO TINY JARS is a supermarket spice aisle. A few to spruce up dried herb leaves can be amazingly pricey. But grow and dry your own, as Sharon Lovejoy does, and you get the same thing virtually free. It's easy.

Many common herbs, including thyme, rosemary, marjoram, tarragon, and lavender, come from the Mediterranean region. Shown here, warm and dry there, so the plants are naturally adapted to getting little summer time water. Soil that stays damp for long periods makes their roots rot. Preventing rot that's dry enough is easy in Southern California, but it's trickier where summers are rainy. The solution: Grow them in unglazed terra-cotta pots that allow moisture to evaporate through the clay walls. Since herbs become gangly and need frequent snipping, Sharon turns the trimmings into dried herb life aids, including a lavender and rose petal mix for tea and a confetti of whole thyme for ice cream.

Drying herbs doesn't require special equipment. Just hang stems upside down in loose bunches, out of direct sunlight. Keep bunches small, big ones bend to get muddy. Hang bunches far enough apart for air to circulate. When sufficiently dry, the leaves will crunch when you squeeze them—the quickest way to separate them from the hard stems. To preserve the most scent or flavor, store the dried leaves in airtight containers in a cool, dry dark place. ■



ABOVE LEFT A small laundry-drying rack with spreading arms is pulled down to dry herb bunches of scented geranium, (Perfumier) leaves and marjoram, and poppy. **ABOVE RIGHT** Antique herbs along the edge of the shed's back room for more dried herb bundles. They're a common handy for storing the big metal-shaped baskets she uses for harvesting fruit from the citrus trees in the grove outside.

<ALL ABOUT> Quartz Countertops

With the look of natural stone, minus the maintenance, these surfaces give granite a run for its money. This Old House explains why you should consider easy-care quartz. BY AMY R. HUGHES

MADE FROM ONE OF THE HARDEST MINERALS on earth, quartz countertops are arguably the most durable option for kitchens. They're also some of the most eye-catching. They come in a wide variety of colors, including fire-engine red and apple green, as well as earthy browns, blacks, and grays, with sparkles and veining for the look of granite or marble. But unlike natural-stone slabs, which are mined, these slabs are engineered in a factory. Their primary ingredient is ground quartz (about 94 percent), combined with polyester resin to bind it and pigments to give it color. For some designs, small amounts of recycled glass or marble flecks are added to the mix. The resin also helps make these counters stain and scratch resistant—and nonporous, so they never need to be sealed. Compared with granite, the rigging (and of high-end countertops, which typically requires a new protective top coat at least once a year).

In the past, the biggest knock against quartz was that it lacked the patterns and color variations you get with natural stone. But that's most gone now, with all the manufacturers offering multibed slabs with enough flecks, swirls, and random patterning to make them almost indistinguishable from the real thing. They were once available only with a polished finish, now you can get one with a honed, sealed, or etched treatment. So if it's the look of marble-look, seamed stone, or glossy granite that you want, there's a quartz countertop for you. Read on for help picking one to match your budget, your cooking and cleaning needs, and your style.

HOW THEY'RE MADE

Natural quartz crystals are mined, then ground into sand or an aggregate that is mixed with resin binders and pigments and pressure to form a solid slab. Pigments add color, and the process imparts color to the countertop.



VITALS

HOW MUCH DO THEY COST? Expect to pay about the same as you would for natural stone around \$80 to \$120 per square foot, including installation.

DIY OR HIRE A PRO? Like natural stone, quartz slabs are very heavy. And though the solid surface makes them more flexible, they too can crack if not properly handled. Work only with certified installers.



WHERE TO BUY IT? Order through kitchen design showrooms or from home centers and big-box stores, such as The Home Depot, IKEA, and Lowe's.

HOW LONG DO THEY LAST? For as long as you have your kitchen. Quartz countertop manufacturers provide warranties ranging from 10 to 15 years to lifetime, depending on the company.

Score the movement in black and gray glass: this quartz countertop, a kind, traditional look. Steven Berlingham, \$75-\$90 per sq. ft. Installed, sample house.com for details.

QUARTZ-COUNTER TIMELINE

Here's the process, from picking your slab at the store to having it installed in your home



STEP 1 Shop around to compare colors and profiles. Some quartz counters are exclusively through big-box stores; other slabs are available only through independent kitchen and bath showrooms.



STEP 2 Pick your brand and color, and set up a date for a fabricator to visit your home to take measurements and make a template of the tops of your base cabinets. Unless you're keeping existing fixtures, you supply the dimensions for the sink and faucet cutouts as well as any drop-in appliances, such as a cooktop.



STEP 3 Get a price quote and place your order. Once the fabricator knows the complexity of the installation, including the edge profile, number of slabs, and cabinet details, they can quote the actual cost of the entire job.



STEP 4 Wait, between too long. Assuming your base cabinets are set and your kitchen is otherwise complete, the fabricator can get the slab from the distributor or direct from the manufacturer and ship it to your space in about a week. If you're using multiple slabs, consider asking the fabricator to get them from the same manufacturing batch to ensure the best possible match.



STEP 5 Schedule the installation. The fabricator lays the slab directly on top of cabinets (usually, no plywood underlayment is required). It's held in place with silicone-based construction adhesive, and any seams between slabs are filled with color-matched epoxy resin. Undermount sinks are installed with clips (and sometimes wood braces) that attach to the underside of the countertop. Expect an afternoon for a typical kitchen to take from a few hours to a day.

Quartz counters to suit every style

Four kitchens, from tried-and-true traditional to clean-lined contemporary, show how your countertop can impact the look of the space

1> RELAXED FARMHOUSE

This sleek-gray countertop has a matte, honed-in look that suits the pine shingles and the weather-resistant pendant light. Open shelves and painted cabinets with birch pull drawer hardware add to the kitchen's breezy appeal. **Shen: Piedmont: \$25-\$40 per sq. ft.; cenhous.com**

2> STREAMLINED MODERN

A white countertop with subtle gray veining, a glossy finish, and a simple eased-edge mitered-chip contour with this green-painted cabinet and chrome stainless-steel fixtures and appliances. **Shen: White Carrara: \$45-\$55 per sq. ft.; cenhous.com**

3> EARTHY TRADITIONAL

Two semi-rounded corners complement the stained wood cabinets. A semi-honed style carved farmhouse-style range with a vintage note. On the island, a 5-inch-mitered edge profile gives the work surface a chunky furniture-like look. **Shen: Nottingham (granite) and Sussex (quartz): \$75-\$85 per sq. ft.; cenhous.com**

4> TIMELESS ELEGANCE

A black-and-white color combination is always a classic. Here, the dark countertop pairs with the lighter perimeter cabinets. The centering volume is most visible in the island where a 90-degree edge profile adds an extra dose of sophistication. Similar to show, **Zeck: Galaxy Black and Cloud White: \$60-\$80 per sq. ft.; d-upon.com**



The finishing touch

Just about any edge profile that you can get with stone can be replicated with quartz. The standard eased edge, slightly rounded over so that there aren't any sharp angles, and the more fanciful ogee, which resembles an S curve on its side, are two of the most popular treatments. Your fabricator will help you select an edge that suits your kitchen's style and the countertop's thickness—typically 1½,

1¾, or 2 inches—and will shape the profile using a template provided by the manufacturer. Fabricators can also do custom designs, such as a beveled, raw edge (shown) or an gently cascading three-level waterfall-style profile. Keep in mind that the more complex the edge, the higher the cost.

Desert Linework with beveled edge: \$40-\$55 per sq. ft.; cenhous.com

BEYOND THE KITCHEN: PREFAB OPTIONS

You won't find ready-made slabs for kitchen counters, but home centers now offer smaller bathroom vanity tops with faucet drillings and undersink-sink cutouts. Expect to pay \$350 to \$900 for a vanity top, depending on the size and color.

Home-furnishings manufacturers are also catching on to the pluses of quartz. Room & Board offers dining, cocktail, accent, and counter-height tables with five different quartz-top options and a choice of bases.



TOP: Get a custom-built vanity for less by wedding a prefab vanity (slab included) with a stock cabinet. Shown: Subzero Rivaque. **Base:** from \$640. **homedit.com**. **ADD-ON:** Mix and match quartz tops and wood bases for an updated farmhouse table. Shown: Linens without walls with white quartz top, from \$1,695. **roomandboard.com**

Rare jewels

It doesn't get much more luxurious than a semiprecious stone countertop formed from real slices of colorful quarried crystals—such as agate and amethyst. Added resin work like a glue to bind the gems together into a continuous countertop while also making it stain and scratch resistant. These opulent tops would add a dramatic look to a small kitchen island, a built-in bar, or a powder-room vanity. Shown: Concerto Collection in Brown Agate, Rose Quartz, and Tiger Eye, \$400 per sq ft. **clearstoneusa.com**

More smart uses for quartz

With its broad range of colors, patterns, and new textures, the surface is migrating from the kitchen to just about every room in the house.

1> TUB DECK

Unlike marble, quartz won't be messed by an array of acids of bathed. Shown: Element. \$65–\$85 per sq ft. **clearstoneusa.com**

2> LAUNDRY COUNTER

Quartz is antimicrobial, so it won't harbor bacteria from soiled clothes. Just be sure to clean up bleach spills quickly to prevent damage. Shown: Element. \$75–\$80 per sq ft. **clearstoneusa.com**

3> SHOWER SEAT

A fully tiled shower is cooler and cooler from a quartz shower seat. Shower from great tiles to keep clean. Shown: Element. \$65–\$72 per sq ft. **clearstoneusa.com**

4> DINING ROOM SERVER

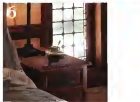
You can stop worrying about red-wine rings, because quartz is impervious, also can't penetrate it. Similar to stone. Trappista. \$65–\$75 per sq ft. **clearstoneusa.com**

5> FIREPLACE SURROUND

Quartz can withstand very high temperatures as long as the heat isn't direct. So go ahead and surround your fireplace with. Shown: Concrete. \$65–\$80 per sq ft. **clearstoneusa.com**

6> BEDSIDE TABLE

If tapping your nightstand with quartz, you won't need a counter to keep morning coffee or tea spills from staining. Shown: Add-on. \$75–\$80 per sq ft. **clearstoneusa.com**



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Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

by Bob Vila

INSIDE
CIRC-SAW BLADES / DRIVEWAY MOLD
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Q Are there gloves that are good for handling rosebushes? I'm tired of getting jabbed.

—DICK HIT, NORBURG, PA

A When I have to work on prickly shrubs, I wear leather gloves because they're pretty tough resistant and I like the way they feel. You can get rose gloves with gauntlets to protect your forearms, but I just wear long-sleeve denim shirts. And to minimize the chance of being pricked, I grab stakes at their ends, where there are fewer thorns, and use 4- to 6-foot long-reach pruners to make the cuts from a distance. You can't get stabbed if your hands stay clear of the barbs.

—ROGER COOK,
TOM LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

42
tips, tricks, and
answers to
your home
improvement
questions

PHOTOGRAPH
BY ERIKA JAYNE

Our cast of veteran experts

TOM SILVA
General ContractorNORM ABRAM
Master CarpenterRICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating ExpertROGER COOK
Landscaping ContractorKEVIN O'CONNOR
Roof

I used my new circular saw to cut pressure-treated decking, and on the very first cut, the blade burned the wood. Do I need a specialized blade?

—JOHN DICKSON, FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA.



To minimize the friction that can burn wood during a cut, Tom Silva uses carbide-tooth blades, and pushes the saw in a straight line using steady pressure.

TOM SILVA REPLIES: First, make sure the blade isn't on backwards; the label should be facing out. If that's not the problem, you may need a carbide-tooth blade, which cuts more cleanly and with less friction than an all-steel blade. I typically use a diamond 40-tooth carbide-tipped blade. It cuts fairly quickly and smoothly, with less splintering and effort than the 24-tooth framing blades that come with a lot of saws.

That said, it could be that your sawing technique is causing the wood to burn. To minimize friction, adjust the blade depth to no more than 1/4 inch deeper than the thickness of the wood. Provide good support to the piece you're cutting to prevent the two halves from pinching the blade. Avoid warped handles, and use a rubber spacer on a guide for making straight cuts. Finally, don't push the saw too hard, firm, steady pressure is all you need.

Nailer primer

I saw Norm using pneumatic nailers for his projects, and I went out for building furniture and walling molding. Should I get a bread nailer or a finish nailer?

—GREGORY EVERT, BOWIE, MD

NORM ABRAM REPLIES: Finish nailers, which shoot 15- and 16-gauge nails, would be overkill for these

applications and leave big, obvious holes in the workpiece or cause it to split. For the small moldings you're talking about, I generally use either a bread nailer or a pin nailer; the former shoots 18-gauge nails, and the latter, 23-gauge nails. The tiny holes they leave in the workpiece barely need to be filled. (The smaller the nail diameter, the bigger the gauge number.)

I use bread nailers on thin interior trim. The nailers are for delicate moldings and the ends of a workpiece, where a head might cause a split. Remember that anything you put-and must be glued first or it could pull right off.

Unfortunately, no one nailer shoots both heads and pins. If I had to choose only one, it would be the more versatile bread nailer.

Front-door options

Our entry door, which opens onto the front porch, needs replacing. Should our next door be wood, fiberglass, or steel?

—LEE MARSHALL, BIRMINGHAM, LA.

KEVIN O'CONNOR REPLIES: To get an answer for you, I spoke to Jeff Lewandowski, vice president of technical services of the Window and Door Manufacturers Association. He says that because your door is covered by a porch roof, a wood replacement might be just fine. "Compared with fiberglass or steel, wood gives you a wider range of styles to choose from—and good looks, to boot." Plus, he says, you can hang a wood door on the existing jamb, meaning they are in good shape. Steel and fiberglass can't be modified so easily to fit an existing opening since they come hung on their own jamba. That means your old jamb and trim have to come out

What is it?

• Tarbrush toy

• Fishing lure

• Clothespin

• Tarp clip



before the new door can go in.

The biggest concern with wood is upkeep. "If you're not willing to sand and recoat the finish every other year or so, you're better off with a lower-maintenance material, like steel, fiberglass, or aluminum cladding," Lewandowski says. But even these materials aren't totally maintenance-free and aluminum can dent and corrode, fiberglass can crack, and the finishes on all of them will fade.

Moldy driveway
I power-washed my concrete driveway last year, and the black mold is already back. Is there some specific cleaning solution that will get rid of it for good?

—FRANKLIN MOSE, PLYMOUTH, PA.

ROGER COOK REPLIES: There's no way to stop mold from coming back. But you can delay its return by adding a biodegradable wash, like Klear Kicker (flexall.com) or Citicid 20, to the pressure washer's reservoir. Unlike bleach-based solutions, these cleaners won't harm plants.

To get the best results, use a wide fan tip, hold the washer's nozzle at a consistent height, and work methodically with overlapping strokes from one end of the driveway to the

other. And because a high-pressure stream can dig into concrete, run the water at the lowest pressure that still removes the mold. Once it's gone, go back and rinse off any residue with plain water.

When the driveway is clean and dry, use a pump sprayer to apply a coat of concrete sealer. A good sealer will help concrete dry faster and thereby discourage mold from getting a foothold. Test the sealer on a small patch first to avoid if you like the results; some sealers form a shiny film or darken the concrete. Two-trim silicone sealers, such as SealGon (sealgon.com), are a good choice because they don't peel off or alter concrete's appearance, and they'll last 20 years.

Electric hot water

We have an all-electric ranch with two full baths, and we need a new water heater. Should we go with a tankless unit or one of the new heat-pump hybrids?

—JOYANCE, NORTH HAVEN, PA.

RICHARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES: Heat-pump water heaters are worth a look, being the most efficient way to generate hot water with electricity. The heat pump captures ambient heat



A thorough pressure washing with a wide fan tip is the first step in cleaning concrete.

from the air, concentrates it through a refrigeration cycle, and sends that heat into a tank. At the same time, the pump blows cool, dry air into the room, a nice benefit in the summer.

Compared with tank-type and tankless units, which work like old-fashioned electric water heaters, heat-pump units by themselves take longer to bring a tank up to temperature. But in terms of peak demand for hot water, backup electric elements can turn on and shorten recovery time.

Performance has its price. Heat-pump units can use 60 percent less electricity than conventional heaters, but they cost three to five times more to buy. Good thing that installation doesn't require major alterations.

One more thing: Measure for headrooms. Most heat-pump units stand about 6 feet, a good 2 feet taller than many 40-gallon heaters.

What is it?

Tap clip

The Tap Shark gets its name from its shark-like shape and serrated jaws, which tightly grip tape edges. Thanks to a dual-lens thumbcam, \$4.99 for four; handsonline.com



to coil are on the floor directly underneath, conventional ductwork is an option. You simply run supply and return ducts to registers in the ceiling at each room. That type of retrofit would be fairly simple and unobtrusive. But if you have to coil a low-riser floor and don't have a basement where you can park another air handler, adding more ductwork will be messy and expensive, to say the least.

For these challenging upstairs-downstairs installs, consider either mini-split systems, such as the ones made by Mitsubishi (mitsubishicomfort.com), or mini-duct systems, like those made by Unico (unico.com).

A mini-split pumps refrigerant from an outdoor compressor through pairs of easy-to-run 2-inch-diameter insulated tubing to as many as four indoor units connected on the walls or ceiling. The beauty of this system is that each unit has its own thermostat, so you get the efficiency of mini-zone cooling. But, aesthetically speaking, you may find the exposed indoor units are not your cup of tea.

A mini-duct punks are at high velocity through flexible ducts just 3/16 inches across, looking for a relatively easy fit in old houses. The fast-moving air creates uniform cooling from floor to ceiling, reduces the number of return ducts to one, and does a superior job of spacing out

room humidity, so you feel more comfortable at a higher thermostat setting. Small ducts also mean small outlets, just 2 inches in diameter. In short, you get effective cooling that doesn't detract from or significantly alter the original look of the home.

What's hard to say what it will cost to retrofit central air—there are too many variables—all three options are comparably priced.

Floor heat over slabs

I plan to tile over a concrete slab after I put down an electric heating mat. Does the mat go directly on the slab?

—ANDREW GARDNER/CLINTON, N.Y.

MARK FERRANTE REPLIES: No. You need a thermal break to keep the slab from sucking the mat's heat into the ground. The 1/2-inch sheets of cork underlayment sold at home centers offer decent insulation and isolate the tiles from cracks in the concrete.

Cork has to be installed on a dry surface. To test for moisture, tape a 1-foot-square piece of aluminum foil to the concrete, sealing all edges. If, by the next day, there's no condensation on the foil facing the floor, use a cork-compatible mastic to glue down the underlayment. Once it's in place, apply thermal and set the mat.

Mark Ferrante has led many T.O.H. TV projects.



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QAC dilemma

I'd like to put in central air-conditioning and get rid of the window units once and for all. But duct placement won't be easy in my 1930s house. What systems should I be looking at?

—DANIEL SUGAS ST. MARTIN, VA.

RICHARD TRETHEWY REPLIES: If there's room in an attic to install an air handler and the rooms you want

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Portable table saws

These rolling workhorses with 10-inch blades have the power to rip plywood and the finesse to cut mitered and dados. Here are five of the latest models, ranging from high-end pro to bargain DIY—*—GOSWAMY*



What to look for

1. A kickstarter for accurate rip cuts
2. A table extension to support sheet goods
3. A collapsible stand with wheels
4. An air bag easy to reach shutoff switch
5. A no-slip roller gauge for precise crosscuts

Bosch 4100-09
[8549] boschtools.com

This overachiever cut through heavy pressure-treated lumber without flinching and the fence clamps solidly in place, inspiring confidence on its cuts. The stand unfolds with the best of all worlds: It's easy to use to a comfortable working height of 36 inches. And changing blades was a snap thanks to the arbor stop that locks the blade in place. We only wish the blade cut deep enough to get through a 4x4 in one pass. **Price point:** \$365. **Weight:** 35 lbs. **3,650-rpm motor.** Max rip: 25 inches. Max blade height: 3 1/2 inches.



Jet JBT5 10MJS
[9670] jettools.com

We loved the way the spring-loaded stand popped up in a single, smooth motion and how the roller guide kept the saw's ultra-wide table. The fence and cantilever have the quality feel you'd expect in a nicely engineered tool. Imagine our surprise, then, when the motor bogged down on a regular 2x4. But once we replaced the substandard stop blade, this saw cut like a champ. **Price point:** \$90. **Weight:** 15 lbs. **4,000-rpm motor.** Max rip: 25 inches. Max blade height: 3 1/2 inches.



Rockwell RK7241S
[8400] rockwelltools.com

This saw's extension table unfolds—the others slide out—so it accommodates impressive 30-inch-wide rip cuts. The unique undermount dust bag is very effective. A laser projects the blade's outline no matter the angle, a feature we found handy on cloudy days (we couldn't see it in the sun). The wheels are on the saw, not the stand, so you have to fold the stand when you want to roll it. We ended up dragging it around. **Price point:** \$45. **Weight:** 15 lbs. **4,600-rpm motor.** Max rip: 30 inches. Max blade height: 3 1/2 inches.



DeWalt DW745
[9670] dewalt.com

This little fellow has plenty of cutting oomph and its arbor lock and pinion adjuster that keeps the fence parallel with the blade whenever you lock it down. The blade will cut through a 2x4 and rip a full sheet of plywood in half. Still, this is a great saw for quick setups and slightly smaller tasks. **Price point:** \$65. **Weight:** 25 lbs. **3,850-rpm motor.** Max rip: 20 inches. Max blade height: 3 1/2 inches.



Ryobi RTS31
[8299] ryobitools.com

This saw shaved everything we put fed through it, from 1/2-inch-thick plywood to a low price. We knocked out 30 inches, the widest of all the saws. Half of the table slides out, which is helpful during crosscuts, but that half sits slightly higher than the base half, so you're more likely to suffer. And we prefer sliding miter gauges, such as those on the other saws. Like the Rockwell, the wheels are on the saw, not the stand. **Price point:** \$55. **Weight:** 13 lbs. **5,000-rpm motor.** Max rip: 30 inches. Max blade height: 3 1/2 inches.

Techniques safe ripping

Follow these basic safety rules every time you turn on the saw

BEFORE YOU START, ALWAYS...

1. Put on eye and ear protection
2. Roll up sleeves, tuck in shirt
3. Remove any clutter from work area and make sure you're stable
4. Set blade's depth to cut through stock
5. Stand to one side of workpiece end side



AS YOU'RE RIPPING...

6. If motor strains, don't force wood through blade. Stop it and avoid any pinch or saw blade
7. Whenever blade is less than 6 inches from fence, use push stick. Other vital safety steps: keep hands away from blade, avoid reaching over blade, avoid reaching under blade
8. Hold workpiece end side. If you pinch, stop saw and get new workpiece
9. Always go to workpiece end side. Never cut from end
10. Hold your control hand at one location between workpiece and fence as you reach through blade with other hand



TIP: Before every rip cut, measure the distance from the fence to the outer slot, front and back. If the measurements are the same, kickback is far less likely. —HOWARD W. TOH MASTER CARPENTER

DON'T SEE YOUR FAVORITE SAW?
Send us photos of features you like and we'll feature them in our next issue.

Directory

AUGUST 2013

COVER Search for the "Storage Cottage" in New York's Adirondack Park.

CHECKLIST (p. 14) **Thanks, Mr. Friedman!** and **Myriad** (p. 15) **Thanks, Mr. Friedman!** and **Myriad** (p. 15) **Thanks, Mr. Friedman!** and **Myriad** (p. 15)

HOME SOLUTIONS (p. 20-25) **Robert Sells** A **light and airy kitchen** for **Mr. Friedman's** **Myriad** (p. 20) **Thanks, Mr. Friedman!** and **Myriad** (p. 20) **Thanks, Mr. Friedman!** and **Myriad** (p. 20)

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THE HISTORY Cottoncrafter John and Nina Pace built this Queen Anne–inspired farmhouse around 1895. The house has had a checkered existence, surviving a massive fire in 1899, a tornado that leveled much of the area in the 1930s, and a previous owner. Most recently, *This Old House* reader Lynn Moore led the charge to save the home after learning of Garland's plan to demolish it to build apartments. Moore appeared before the city council on the eve of demolition, armed with her past issues of *TOW* magazine open to this column. He helped convince the council to hold the working ball and grant the home six months of reprieve, allowing time for a follow reader to step in and rescue this historic house one more time.

WHY SAVE IT? Queen Anne–style houses once decorated this area, but the Pace house is one of Garland's last remaining examples. It retains its original stained glass windows and a detailed porch with a beaded spindlework frieze. **WHAT IT NEEDS** Used as an event center for the past 30 years, the house needs to be restored as a single-family home. Once it's moved to a new plot and renovated, the new owner will be able to boast about living in an authentic farmhouse from the Texas Frontier. —PAUL ROSE



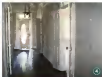
The City of Garland is allowing a owner to move an 18,000-sq-ft house adjacent to the Pace House—see how. www.thisoldhouse.com/sep2013



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1) The 5,500-square-foot house is now stored in a front lot, awaiting a new site. A lot half a mile from its former location is available for \$45,000. 2) The front dormer has a stained glass window and decorative corbels. 3) The back door has ornate embellishments. 4) The first floor hallway leads to two large rooms. The upstairs could easily be converted to hold three bedrooms and two full baths.



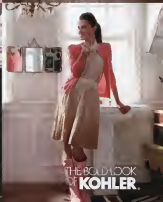
COULD YOU MOVE IT?
Try to move or avoid houses that should be moved aside for public use, to prevent demolition. For more, visit www.thisoldhouse.com/sep2013.

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